

Hizbollah: No help on Israelis

BEIRUT (AP) — Hizbollah (Party of God) said Tuesday it will not meet any U.S. team sent to determine the fate of missing Israeli servicemen in Lebanon. The Iranian-backed group that holds two of the six missing Israelis said in a statement that the United States' unwavering support of Israel made it "unqualified to play any humanitarian role." The United States "has methodically undertaken to provide cover to Israel's repeated aggression and massacres against the Lebanese people," the statement said. It came in response to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's announcement in Damascus on Sunday that Syrian President Hafez Al Assad had promised to help determine the fate of the missing Israelis. Mr. Christopher, who is trying to break a deadlock in the Syrian-Israeli track of the Middle East peace negotiations, called Mr. Assad's pledge an "important humanitarian gesture" in the peace negotiations. U.S. officials travelling with Mr. Christopher have said Mr. Assad has agreed to help a U.S. congressional team make a fact-finding trip to Syria and Lebanon to determine the fate of the Israeli servicemen.



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House today takes confidence vote on government

By Ayman Al Safadi

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament is today expected to end its discussion of a vote of confidence in the Cabinet of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali with 15 deputies scheduled to take the floor before the government presents its response and a vote is taken.

Deputies and observers say the Cabinet will leave the session with a humble victory as no more than 47 deputies are expected to give it a vote of confidence. Twenty-five to 28 deputies are expected to withhold confidence; the rest of the 80 parliamentarians are expected to abstain.

Nineteen deputies delivered speeches Tuesday, the third day of the marathon session during which many of the 60 deputies who spoke severely criticised the government for its "undemocratic" record while others praised it as an able cabinet worthy of the House's confidence.

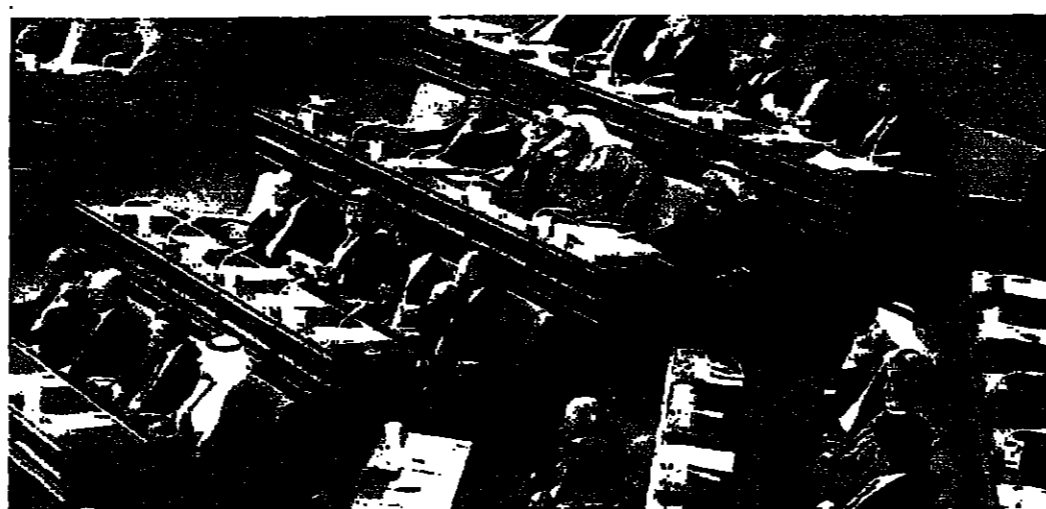
"The government got a taste of what it means to work when the House is sitting," said one deputy at the end of the session, which saw the government subjected to the harshest criticism over its dissolution of the 11th Parliament, changing the Election Law, alleged interference in the Nov. 8 elections and undemocratic and unconstitutional practices.

Leftists, Islamists and centrist deputies also castigated the government for allegedly exercising favouritism in filling senior public positions, showing disrespect for the House and "dictatorial" style of governing.

The government came under fire for "breaking the norm and traditions" by not resigning after the elections, failing to consult deputies over last week's ministerial changes and allegedly using its power to favour representatives of one party. Al Ahd, in appointing governors, general directors and other senior officials.

Deputies also claimed that only Al Ahd is represented in the Cabinet in which no other shades of the political spectrum have no presence.

"We demand that this government resign because it will not be able to face the challenges," said Deputy Samir Habashneh (Karak).



The Lower House of Parliament in session Tuesday

Referring to the Cabinet's dissolution of the 11th Parliament, Mr. Habashneh, a leftist, asserted the government's practices demonstrated the ease with which it could reverse the democratic process.

"This government believes in electric therapy which stuns but does not kill and leave the shocked person living in fear," said Deputy Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh (Irbid) in a speech,

full of criticism of the Cabinet. Mr. Rawabdeh, president of the eight-member Jordan National Front (JNF) bloc, echoed other deputies in saying the introduction of the one-person, one-vote formula into the Election Law strengthened tribalism and sectarianism in the country and delivered a severe blow to national unity.

National unity has also been weakened by favouritism, nepotism and discrimination among citizens, many deputies said, demanding that citizens be treated equally.

In addition to demands that such practices and, Mr. Rawabdeh insisted that the government explain why, as he claimed, it is restricting the use of a \$12 million trade protocol with Iraq to two individuals and planning to sell its shares in a national company to

another individual.

Islamic Action Front (IAF) deputies attacked the government for participating in the peace process with Israel and demanded that the country withdraw from it.

They criticised the information policy, which, they said, is promoting peace with Israel and warned against changing school curricula to suit the requirements of the era of normalisation of relations with Israel.

The front deputies accused the government of irregularities during the Nov. 8 elections, saying the Cabinet worked to discredit IAF candidates and reduce their chances of winning the polls.

They said the government did not respond to His Majesty King Hussein's orders that the elections be fair and honest.

"The elections were anything but honest," said IAF Tashleh Deputy Abdullah Al Akaleh.

Dr. Akaleh said the government used its employees and power to promote certain candidates and intimidate voters not to vote to others while Irbid IAF deputy Abdul Rahim Al Okour indicated the

government distributed leaflets that attacked the front's candidates.

"I have evidence that the government distributed these leaflets," Mafrak Deputy Abdul Karim Al Dughmi said in a speech that included the strongest attack on the government's policy, record and members.

Claiming that former Deputy Leith Shbeilat was implicated in a "fabricated" sedition plot because of his strong opposition to the government last year, Mr. Dughmi said fear would not stop him from opposing the government because "this is a national duty."

"This government (represents) a coup d'etat on democracy," said Mr. Dughmi, who claimed the government's practices were undemocratic, unconstitutional and lacking in respect for the people and their representatives.

Ma'an Deputy Awad Khleifat said the government fell short of the people's expectations because it is neither a political nor a technocratic government.

The government also came under attack for raising the salaries of ministers at a time

when, said Mr. Dughmi, Mr. Akaleh and other deputies, the raises should have gone to civil servants whose standards of living continue to fall.

Balqa Deputy Hashem Dabbas was among deputies who indicated support for the government and defended its record in handling the elections and praised its ability to govern.

"The elections were honest and fair," said Mr. Dabbas.

Mr. Dabbas and other deputies endorsed Jordan's participation in the peace process, provided it produces a just and comprehensive settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Deputies demanded that Jordan seek better relations with other Arab countries, with many calling for an end to the sanctions against Iraq and continued support for the Palestinian people.

The problems of poverty and unemployment were raised by many deputies who warned that poverty is spreading and demanded the government find immediate solutions to these problems. They demanded that subsidies be not lifted from basic goods and no new taxes introduced.

Major bridge built across River Tigris

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq has finished building a two-level bridge over the Tigris River in Baghdad, the first of its kind in the region, official newspapers said here Tuesday. The "Leader's Bridge," 400 metres long and 20 metres wide, was described as a "challenge" to the U.N. embargo imposed on Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

Sudan, Egypt to exchange detainees

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Sudan and Egypt have agreed on an exchange of detainees, Sudanese Foreign Minister Hussein Suleiman Abu Salih said here Tuesday. He told a weekly press briefing that the five Sudanese being held by Egypt would be freed and flown to Sudan on Thursday, while the four Egyptians held in Sudan would be repatriated the same day. Mr. Abu Salih did not identify the detainees or say when or why they were arrested. He expressed the hope that the move would serve as a stimulant for improving bilateral ties.

Bonn warns citizens of Algeria travel

BONN (AP) — The Foreign Ministry on Monday warned Germans not to travel to Algeria unless absolutely necessary. The ministry in a statement said the security situation in Algeria had seriously worsened and that since the beginning of the month "violent acts by Islamic fundamentalists are being aimed at foreigners." Those absolutely needing to travel to Algeria should be fully aware of the security risks, the statement said.

Aspin sees war with nuclear arms

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The United States must be prepared to cope with a future war in which Iraq would have nuclear weapons, Defence Secretary Les Aspin said here Tuesday. Washington has had to adapt its nuclear non-proliferation policy in the post-cold-war world to take account of states which manage to acquire nuclear weapons. Mr. Aspin said U.S. troops could find themselves "fighting a Desert Storm-type of war with the opponent actually having a handful of nuclear weapons." Mr. Aspin said in a speech to the National Academy of Sciences. He said the new policy "doesn't apply particularly to North Korea, but certainly North Korea would be an example." Washington has said it is reviewing its options in South Korea amid fears that North Korea is developing a nuclear weapon, or may even have one already, after refusing for nine months to allow international inspections of its nuclear facilities.

Moves are under way for Israel-PLO summit

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is seeking a meeting next week between Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to overcome obstacles impeding the implementation of a historic accord signed in Washington three months ago.

Palestinian officials in Amman and Tunis said that contacts were underway to ensure a Palestinian-Israeli summit on Dec. 12, a day prior to the agreed upon date for the beginning of Israeli troop withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho.

They said that Israel seemed interested in such a meeting as it became clear that the Cairo negotiations were leading nowhere.

"The negotiations have become futile. The sticking points are very serious and require top-level political decisions on both sides," said one PLO official in Tunis.

The venue of the Israeli-Palestinian summit has not been decided but some Palestinian officials did not rule out that Mr. Rabin might go to Tunis, the base of the PLO, to meet Mr. Arafat.

The PLO leader has urged the U.S. to intervene to pressure Israel to abide by the agreed upon withdrawal

Gaza officials to stay

THE PALESTINE Liberation Organisation (PLO) has decided to keep major administrative officials in their posts in the Gaza Strip instead of appointing new personnel.

PLO officials told the Jordan Times that the decision took into consideration the fact that the heads of the various administrative departments have the needed expertise and the political credentials.

"They are qualified and have political credibility. There is no doubt about their nationalism," said a PLO official contacted in Tunis.

But the other reasons behind the decision seem to be political, in the sense that the PLO is racing against time to prove its preparedness and that it is trying to avoid the resentment of local administration officials.

"A shakeup of the existing system will not be wise. Other than that we do not want them to feel that they are being invaded and replaced by political appointees in Tunis," said the official.

The decision was made after extensive consultations with Palestinian leaders in the occupied territories.

date, but Palestinian officials said that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher supported Mr. Rabin's position during his meeting with Mr. Arafat in Amman on Monday.

Mr. Christopher and Mr. Arafat will hold another round of talks in Tunis on Friday.

What Mr. Christopher might deliver to help ease the rising tensions are assurances by Mr. Rabin concerning measures to curb Israeli settlers' attacks on Palestinians.

Mr. Arafat, according to his aides, sought such assurances during his meeting with Mr. Christopher. The PLO

leader was said to be infuriated by doubts expressed by Israel and some Western governments about the PLO's ability to maintain order following the expected Israeli withdrawal.

"Arafat is annoyed by the way he is pressured to maintain order even prior to the transfer of power while there are no similar pressures on Rabin to do so now with the Israeli settlers," said a Fateh official in Tunis.

Mr. Arafat has come under fire by many Palestinians for condemning attacks by Palestinians against Israeli

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Self-rule remains stalled on Jericho and crossings

CAIRO (Agencies) — The Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy negotiations are still blocked on Jericho and the control of crossing points into Jordan and Egypt as the deadline for agreement looms, the chief Palestinian negotiator said Tuesday.

Nabil Shaath said the negotiations would resume Wednesday in Cairo and the Egyptian town of El Arish in the Sinai desert after a one-day break.

Under the autonomy accord signed Sept. 13, the Israeli army is to start pulling out of Gaza and Jericho next Monday. But with the negotiations stalling on key issues, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has said the withdrawal was likely to be delayed by one or two weeks.

Despite the blockage on crossing points and the amount of land around the West Bank town of Jericho to be handed over for Palestinian self-rule, Dr. Shaath reported progress on the issue of Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip.

"The Israelis are reducing their claims concerning settlements," he told AFP without elaborating.

Israel has said it wants to hold onto 10 per cent of the 360 square kilometres which make up Gaza, whereas the PLO agrees to a maximum of five per cent for the settlements.

Dr. Shaath said PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat may meet Mr. Rabin in Cairo within the next week, but it was "not yet confirmed."

The latest round of negotiations resumed on Sunday and are scheduled to run until Thursday.

Negotiations have stalled over boundaries for Jericho, security for settlers, and control over crossing points between Egypt and Gaza as well as between Jordan and Jericho.

But the PLO has reported progress on the release of Palestinian prisoners.

The two delegation leaders at the Israeli-Palestinian talks on autonomy, namely Dr. Shaath and Amnon Shahak for

Israel, would exchange documents for a preliminary draft containing the views of each side on the issues now under discussion.

A source confirmed that the present round of negotiations was being prolonged until Thursday in a bid to clinch an agreement which would allow Israeli troops to start withdrawing from the Gaza Strip and Jericho on the scheduled date of Dec. 13.

Israel appears increasingly to favour postponing the withdrawal in view of current violence in the occupied territories. Even the Palestinians, who said Monday the negotiators are "working against time" to keep to the Dec. 13 deadline, are privately mentioning the possibility of a postponement.

In Bonn, Mr. Arafat said any delay in implementing the self-rule accord would hurt the credibility of the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Arafat told reporters in Germany he could not imagine

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Gaza sheikh killed; trouble in Hebron

GAZA CITY, Occupied Gaza Strip (Agencies) — Masked assailants shot dead a Muslim cleric, Sheikh Khaled Saqallah, in the Rimal district of Gaza City Tuesday, Palestinians said.

The attackers burst into the 45-year-old sheikh's pastry shop and shot him dead at point blank range.

The killing was universally condemned by Palestinian groups, including Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat's Fateh faction and the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas). They pledged to hunt for the killers.

Sheikh Saqallah, regarded as close to Fateh, had been jailed several times by the Israeli authorities during the 1970s.

Several Fateh officials have been killed by masked gunmen in the Gaza Strip since the PLO-Israeli autonomy accord was signed on Sept. 13.

One of the faction's founders, Assad Safawi, was killed on Oct. 21.

The killing of another Fateh member, Mohammad Abu Shaaban, on Sept. 21 was believed to be an internal settling of scores.

The Israeli army has arrested 22 suspected members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) in the occupied West Bank, Palestinian sources said.

The arrests took place overnight Monday in Ramallah, El Bireh, Bethlehem, Nablus and Hebron.

The PFLP is strongly opposed to the PLO-Israeli autonomy accord signed on Sept. 13.

The suspects included Ali Jaradat, a researcher at Bir Zeit University on the West Bank, Ghassan Jarrar, a Ramallah resident released from jail three months ago, and Ribhi Katamesh, a lawyer from El Bireh.

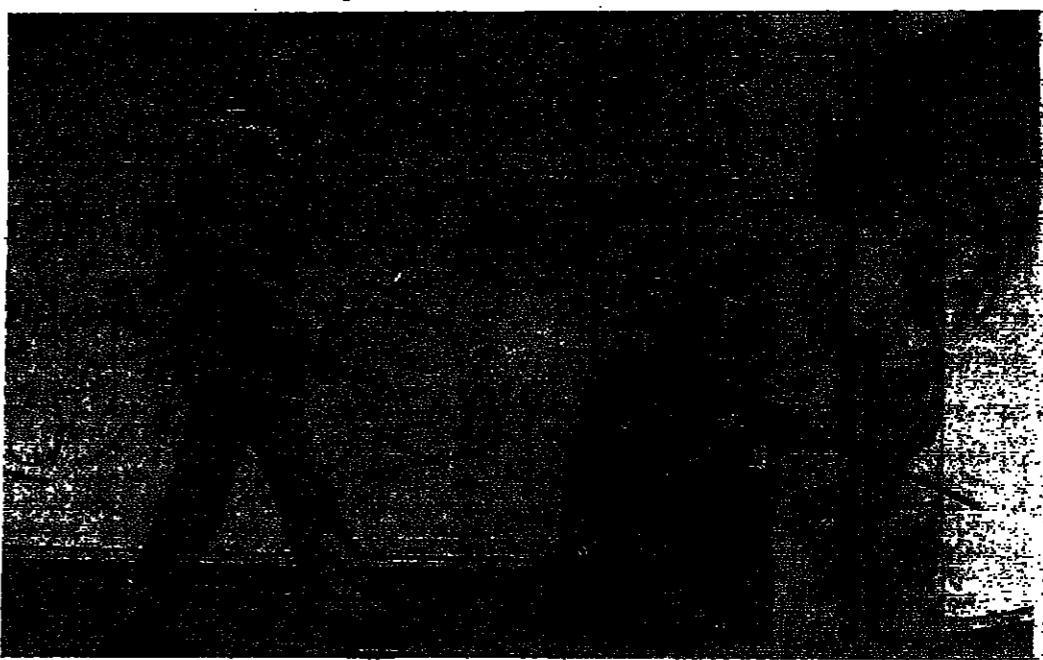
In a joint statement issued in Damascus, the PFLP and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), which is also opposed to the autonomy accord, said Palestinians in the occupied territories needed "international protection" against Jewish settler violence.

They also called for a complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, and warned Mr. Arafat against "submitting to Israeli pressure" over Palestinian resistance to the settlers.

Two settlers were shot dead by Palestinian near Hebron in an attack claimed by Movement Hamas.

Jewish settlers and soldiers shot at Palestinians when a funeral procession for the two settlers was stoned in the West Bank town of Hebron Tuesday, witnesses said.

There were no immediate reports of casualties. The procession of thousands turned violent after nightfall as mourners passed through the



A Palestinian passes an Israeli soldier taking cover during a demonstration held in Ramallah in the occupied West Bank (AFP photo)

heart of Hebron carrying the two coffins to a Jewish cemetery. Shai Bazak, a settler spokesman, and witnesses said Palestinians stoned the demonstrators as they passed.

Some armed Jewish settlers in the crowd and soldiers guarding the mourners started firing at Palestinian homes. Some chanted "slaughter the Arabs" in Arabic and "revenge."

Hebron has been the flash-point of the latest violence by Jewish and Muslim hardliners opposed to the Israel-PLO peace accord.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Tuesday the United States and Israel would redouble Middle East peace efforts amid the spiralling violence.

After meeting Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin for

nearly 90 minutes, Mr. Christopher told reporters: "We agreed that we would react to this by redoubling our efforts to seek peace, a peace with security for all the people of Israel."

"This spiralling violence simply must to an end. The enemies of the peace process are trying to snuff out the hope that burns so brightly for peace here," Mr. Christopher said.

Israel expects Syria talks to resume in January

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel said Tuesday Syria was ready to resume bilateral peace talks, and U.S. and Israeli officials suggested these could get under way in January after a four-month gap.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, emerging from a meeting with visiting U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, said Syrian President Hafez Al Assad had "expressed his readiness to resume the talks."

But an official Syrian newspaper, the English-language Syria Times, repeated on Tuesday Syria's position that the talks could not resume until Israel gave a firm commitment to quit the Golan Heights.

The paper also said Syria had rejected an Israeli offer of a "four-phase withdrawal" from the Golan in return for peace.

The Syria Times said the plan was turned down during Mr. Christopher's visit Sunday when he met President Assad.

Mr. Christopher heard in Damascus an open and frank rejection of the Israeli "four-phase withdrawal" in return for immediate peace with Syria plan, the English-language daily said.

A commentary in the newspaper gave no details of the

plan, but Damascus insists on a full withdrawal from the Golan.

State Department spokesman Michael McCurry called the report preposterous. He said the U.S. team had no knowledge of any such four-phase plan by Israel.

Mr. Christopher is to make a return visit to Damascus on Thursday as part of his Middle East tour.

"Syria could accept scheduling the coming round of the Washington talks only if Mr. Christopher brings with him concrete and explicit guarantees of an Israeli withdrawal," said the Syria Times.

"Otherwise, all his efforts will mean nothing," it warned. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who met Mr. Christopher Sunday, said the Secretary of State was likely to announce a timetable later in the week for the Syrian-Israeli talks stalled since September.

Asked if they would resume next month, a U.S. official on Mr. Christopher's Middle East tour said: "I wouldn't guide you away from it, but the secretary obviously has another discussion with Assad and it'll be possible to say more publicly after that."

Syria suspended the talks with Israel in Washington last

September, saying Israel refused to commit itself to a full withdrawal from Golan.

A senior Israeli official told reporters the aim was to resume talks between Israel and neighbouring Arab states in Washington early next year, an announcement is expected when Mr. Christopher returns to Damascus Thursday.

"The secretary mentioned that there is something that can be reached in terms of timing, but he will announce it only towards the end of his visit in the area," Mr. Rabin said.

Mr. Rabin said Israel's top priority was implementing its deal with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on Palestinian self-rule due to start next Monday in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

Mr. Peres said he would meet PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in Spain on Thursday amid doubts the first Israeli troops would withdraw from the two occupied areas as scheduled.

Mr. Christopher said Syria planned to help a small U.S. congressional delegation look into the fate of six Israeli servicemen missing in Lebanon since the 1980s.

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PLO stumbles from revolution to government

By Abdul Aziz Barrouhi
Reuter

TUNIS — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), after three decades as a revolutionary movement dispersed in exile, knows it has to change its ways when it takes control of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho, due to start from Dec. 13.

But the transition is proving painful. The organisation is in turmoil as the old guard, not least PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat himself, resists the implications of change.

The challenge is to convert the PLO from a ramshackle and secretive alliance of competing political factions and guerrilla groups into a coherent and efficient government staffed by technocrats and with solid democratic credentials.

Old apparatchiks who base their claim to leadership on the dangers and discomforts of the years in exile will have to make way for educated specialists and community

leaders from the occupied territories, the reformers say.

"We need to move the Palestinian people from the era and mentality of the revolution to the era and mentality of constitutional legitimacy, to the era of the state, to the legitimacy of civil society," said Freih Abu Medin, a prominent lawyer and Palestinian peace negotiator from the Gaza Strip.

But moderate PLO officials, those most firmly behind the PLO-Israel self-rule agreement signed in September, say Mr. Arafat's style of leadership is one of the obstacles.

Because the PLO lived for years in the shadow of Arab governments, unable to hold mass elections and often detached from Palestinians living under Israeli rule, power has been concentrated at the top of the organisation.

"Political weight has now moved from the PLO's headquarters in Tunis to the occupied territories, and this fact has been hard to swallow by some PLO leaders for fear of losing their privileges," a

senior PLO official said.

Mr. Arafat, relying on the personal charisma which made him the symbol of the revolution, has always tightly controlled the PLO bureaucracy and decision-making process.

This was crucial when the time came for him to rally the organisation behind the self-rule agreement with Israel.

Palestinians often challenged his judgment but in the end they usually let him have his way.

But increasingly in recent weeks Mr. Arafat has alienated senior members of the PLO Executive Committee by continuing to handle negotiations with Israel on details of self-rule as though the PLO was still a one-man show.

He has maintained the traditional secrecy about PLO finances and has planned to secret the nomination of the Palestinian authority which is to take control of the occupied territories.

Foreign donors and Palestinian experts were dismayed when he named him-

self chairman of an economic council set up to channel foreign aid to the West Bank and Gaza.

Three prominent representatives of the three main PLO factions supporting Mr. Arafat — Mahmoud Abbas, better known as Abu Mazen, from Fateh, Yasser Abed-Rabbo from the moderate wing of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) and Suleiman Nabab from the Palestinian People's Party — told Mr. Arafat that time was ripe for democratic reforms.

These three express the opinions prevalent among moderates in the diaspora and the occupied territories, PLO sources said.

Ahmad Qouriea, the Fateh Central Committee member who conducted the secret talks with Israel in Norway, and Samir Ghushie, PLO Executive Committee member and leader of the Palestine Popular Struggle Front, have been expressing similar views, they said.

Mr. Abbas, who signed the peace deal with Israel in

September as Mr. Arafat stood and watched on the White House lawn, has avoided airing the debate in public.

Asked about the demands for reforms he is associated with, he only says: "There is no crisis. We express our views within the organisation. Each of us has his opinion and of course we are not a true copy of each other. We are not opponents to publicise our views outside the institution."

The call for change has also come from the occupied territories. Nine leaders, including Faisal Hussein, Hanan Ashrawi, Saeb Erekat, Freih Abu Medin and Zakaria Al Agha came to Tunis early in December to press the PLO leadership to introduce democratic reforms.

"We have two neighbours, Israel and Jordan, which have democratic institutions to some extent. The Palestinian model cannot be less democratic or we will face serious troubles when we take power," said one of Mr. Arafat's closest supporters.

"The challenge for the



Yasser Arafat

leadership now is not to let the people down by acting as a corrupt and autocratic regime but to allow all Palestinians to participate in building the new and emerging Palestinian entity," a senior PLO official said.

Mr. Arafat has shown he is well aware of the current reforms against him but PLO reformers say he finds it hard to change.

"The problem with Arafat is that when you discuss it with him he admits he goes too far in the exercise of powers, but the day after, he returns to the same practices," a PLO leader said.

Foreigners in Algeria anxious, but no exodus

By Arshad Mohammad
Reuter

ALGIERS — After two killings in four days, foreigners in Algeria are increasingly anxious but they have not yet started leaving, diplomats and businessmen say.

The foreigners, on news that a Spaniard was killed on a mountain road on Thursday and a Russian woman in an Algiers market on Sunday, are at least reconsidering the risks of living in a country where they are now clear targets.

No one has claimed responsibility for the killings, or for an attack on an Italian shot and wounded in Algiers on Saturday, but an Organisation calling itself the "Armed Islamic Group" had advised foreigners they were at risk if they left the country by the end of November.

"Before the Russian woman I comforted myself with doubts — that maybe this was score settling," said a European woman. "Now I have no more doubts."

"We are all looking at the three events in the last four days and wondering what we should do," said one diplomat.

In the last three months, foreigners have become caught up in the political violence in which at least 1,700 Algerians have been killed in nearly two years.

The violence began after the authorities cancelled an election that the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) party was on the verge of winning. The party was later banned.

Nine foreigners have been killed since Sept. 21, when two French surveyors were kidnapped and killed.

A wave of foreigners including more than 2,500 French left after three French consular workers were kidnapped in October.

Paris and Algiers said the kidnapping was the work of the Armed Islamic Group, which released the three with the warning for foreigners to get out.

Those that remain appear nervous but determined.

"We sent our families out in late October," said one Foreign oil executive. "At this point we don't have any firm plans for leaving. If conditions get worse — yes."

The executive said his firm had moved some workers to the oil fields in southern Algeria, where there is less violence. Those that remain in the capital are being as unpredictable as possible, moving day by day from their homes to various hotels.

An airline official said he had not seen signs foreigners were leaving. "Aside from the increase in anxiety, we've not seen anything," he said. "There is no pressure at the airport."

Another foreign oil company that sent its expatriates abroad when the deadline expired is debating whether to bring them back as planned, one official said.

In Paris, airline Air France and carmaker Renault, both of which have already sent dependants home, said they had no plans to pull out their staff even now that the deadline has passed.

Foreign and Algerian officials called on those still in the country to be as cautious as possible.

The German foreign ministry said it had taken no decision on removing diplomats and dependants. "But in view of the situation there, we are considering the possibilities," a spokesman said.

"People have been told to avoid taking risks. The system in place is reliable to the extent that precautions are taken," an Algerian interior ministry source said on Monday.

The authorities would do whatever possible to protect foreigners, he added.

"A security effort is never 100 per cent reliable. There is no such thing in the world," he said, adding that the killings were aimed at sowing panic. "This is a phase. One should not be too alarmist. This will pass."

British inquiry to grill Thatcher

LONDON (R) — Former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher takes the stand on Wednesday to explain why she allowed Iraq to build up its arms industry with British help.

Lord Justice Scott, head of a judicial inquiry into Britain's "Iraqgate" affair, said in a statement on Monday that Mrs. Thatcher would appear on Wednesday.

She will be the first premier past or present to give evidence in public to such an inquiry.

Three years after she resigned, Mrs. Thatcher, now a baroness, is being called to explain how and why Britain helped Iraq rebuild its war machine after the end of the Iran-Iraq war in 1988 until a matter of days before the August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

At issue is whether Mrs. Thatcher knowingly presided over the bending of export controls on sales of defence equipment to Iraq and whether she might have misled parliament about the rules.

The Scott inquiry has already been told Mrs. Thatcher was consulted about changes to the arms export regulations and warned not to halt one sale for fear it would jeopardise sales.

Opposition Labour Party trade spokesman Robin Cook relished the prospect of Mrs. Thatcher explaining the arms sales.

"The heat is about to be turned on Lady Thatcher herself," Mr. Cook told Reuters Monday. "She must give some straight answers to some straight questions."

The inquiry was set up by Prime Minister John Major after the acquittal of three British businessmen, employed by Iraqi-owned British machine tool maker Matrix Churchill, last November on charges of breaching arms sales rules.

The trial raised the question of whether the government had connived in arms sales and had been prepared to allow innocent men to be jailed rather than have its duplicity exposed.

Mrs. Thatcher and other senior ministers, including her successor Major, have argued curbs on arms sales to both Iran and Iraq — published in



Margaret Thatcher

1985 — were respected.

But it has already emerged they neglected to mention to parliament the guidelines were amended at the end of the Iran-Iraq war in 1988 — drawing a distinction between "lethal and non-lethal" exports.

On that basis Britain went ahead and sold Iraq tens of millions of dollars worth of machine tool and other equipment, much of which ended up in the arms industry.

Judge Scott has shown little patience with semantics and recently asked a Defence Ministry witness: "What were these machine tools going to be used for at a time of war? They were not going to be used to make washing machines. They were obviously going to be used to make armaments given the state of the war."

Mr. Cook said Mrs. Thatcher had to explain the morality of sending British soldiers to fight Iraqi forces armed by Britain.

"What was her role in arming a brutal dictator, against whom we would later expect British troops to fight? The time for ducking and diving from questions is over," Mr. Cook said.

Ministers insist Britain was more rigorous than other Western allies in limiting what went to Baghdad despite the discovery in 1990 that British firms had helped build a giant supergun for Iraq — capable of firing shells as far as Israel.

Much of the ground of the inquiry has already been gone over in a parliamentary investigation into the "supergun" affair.

It found the government had bent the interpretation of what constituted "lethal" arms exports but that the supergun almost got to Iraq through a series of errors rather than conspiracy.

Palestinian women fear being relegated

By Karin Laub
The Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Occupied Gaza Strip — After commanding an underground cell in the Palestinian uprising, Ayshe Abu Maghaseeb is not interested in sitting at home. But she's afraid it may come to that.

During the six-year revolt against Israeli occupation, Ms. Abu Maghaseeb stoned and firebombed soldiers, smuggled messages from Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leaders abroad and was interrogated often by Israeli agents. She says they tried to make her talk by threatening rape and public humiliation.

Many other Palestinian women were on the front lines. Fifty were killed and about 3,000 detained. Now that Israeli troops are preparing to pull out of the Gaza Strip, however, they fear they will be sent back to their kitchens, excluded from power in the new government.

"Arab men don't believe women should be in positions of responsibility," said Ms. Abu Maghaseeb, 30. Her tanned face was framed by a black head scarf she wears reluctantly to escape harassment by Muslim militants.

In the Algerian guerrilla war against the French in 1954-62, "Algerian women took part in all parts of the revolution," she said. "But after achieving independence, they ended up sitting at home. We want to make sure this experience will not be repeated here in Palestine."

There are signs Palestinian

self-rule will break down at least some traditional barriers.

Hanan Ashrawi, who became known in the West as the eloquent spokeswoman of the Palestinian cause, has been named by Yasser Arafat as the PLO envoy to Washington.

Eighty-five women have joined the new Palestinian police force, along with several thousand men, although they will handle only office work and juvenile cases.

Professional women have compiled a list of more than 1,000 colleagues as candidates for important jobs.

"Men have an old boys' network, but women don't, so we are trying to beat them to it this time," said Zuhaira Kamal, leader of the women's federations in the occupied territories.

Anticipated investment in the Palestinian economy, including more than \$2 billion in international aid, is expected to create thousands of jobs, including many for women in manufacturing and offices.

Only about 30,000 of the more than 900,000 women in the West Bank and Gaza work outside the home, most of them as factory hands or domestics.

Economic investment already has brought rewards to a few women.

Anam Tawil, a 29-year-old architect, won a contract sought by 21 established Gaza firms to design four eight-storey apartment houses to be built in the Khan Yunis refugee camp with

European Community (EC) aid.

Ironically, her design is based on Islamic beliefs that women should be homemakers and kept out of sight of strangers. "There are no windows facing each other, and the windows of the kitchen look out over the green area so the mothers can watch the children," she said.

As she showed visitors a cardboard model of the buildings, Mrs. Tawil's two-month-old son Ahmad began crying in his crib in the next room. Her male secretary rushed to calm the baby and later served lemon juice to the guests.

The role reversal in Mrs. Tawil's office was jarring in Gaza, where many women marry at 14 or 15, usually have seven or eight children and need their husband's permission to leave the house.

In the shantytown drive from Mrs. Tawil's office but a world away, Ibtissam Badri Tahan, 33, hoped life would somehow improve under a PLO government and that she would be able to study nursing.

Her parents took her out of school at 15 to marry Mohammad, then 24, and she has borne him eight children, the youngest four months old. She works from 4 a.m. until evening making hummus sandwiches for the family's small stand, then does the family cooking, cleaning and laundry.

"The house is like a prison," she said carefully, watching her husband across the table for any sign of

disapproval. "I hope my girls will have a better life."

They agreed that their six girls should finish high school.

In the dank shack, laundry was piled in a bucket waiting to be hung and huge pots from the sandwich stand were stacked in the sink to be washed.

Mrs. Tahan, a graceful woman in a paisley robe and mustard-coloured head scarf, said she had wanted only two children but that her husband insisted they have more. Few Palestinian women have access to birth control, and both the PLO and Islamic groups encourage large families.

Ms. Kamal, the women's federation leader, is drafting legislation that would guarantee equal pay and the right of women to education, women in factories now are paid only one-half to two-thirds as much as men doing the same job and only about 70 per cent have attended school.

She said Mr. Arafat had given her no commitment, and that even if he is sincere about improving women's lot, he will face opposition from Muslim groups.

"Any kind of compromise would be at the expense of the women," she said.

Saud Shawa, a Hamas ideologue in Gaza, said Islamic groups would try to block any change.

The career of the women is to live happily with her husband," said Dr. Shawa, a veterinarian. "The family is the first line of protection against infection with the Western way of life."

Israeli court awards blinded Palestinian record amount

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A human rights organisation said Monday that the \$350,000 an Israeli court awarded to a Palestinian for injuries he sustained when he was mistakenly shot by Israeli soldiers was unprecedented.

Yael Stein, a spokeswoman for the B'tselem human rights organisation, said the amount is by far the largest since the beginning of the Palestinian uprising in December 1987.

Haifa district court Justice Shmuel Berliner awarded Ashraf Mahmoud Ibrahim 1.4 million shekels (\$460,000) on Sunday for gunfire wounds

that blinded him in 1988, when he was 13.

Ibrahim will collect 1,055,000 shekels (\$350,000) immediately, as the state declared at the trial's outset it would automatically pay 75 per cent of whatever the judge ruled.

The state did not dispute that Ibrahim was a bystander in the incident in Nur Shams refugee camp in the West Bank, but it claimed that he should have known enough to stay indoors during clashes.

Ibrahim was playing near his house at the time and said he saw a group of soldiers some

300 metres away just before being hit. He was shot in the head and blinded. He is confined to a wheelchair and faces further physical and mental deterioration.

Judge Berliner noted Ibrahim's youth and the fact that he was listed as 100 per cent disabled.

The highest previous amount Ms. Stein knew of was a Nazareth district court judgement one year ago awarding Jamal Kassem Oda 161,000 shekels (\$62,000 at the time) for injuries he sustained in the West Bank town of Tamoun in 1988. Oda was appealing that decision, Ms. Stein said.

It was too early to assess how the decision would affect future suits, said Joshua Schoffman, a lawyer with the Association for Civil Rights in Israel.

"The court ruled negligence here — that would not be the case in all the tens of thousands of injuries during the uprising," Mr. Schoffman said. He added that the army's admission that the shooting was accidental also helped the case.

A spokeswoman for the justice ministry would not comment on the impact of the case, saying she was "too busy."

JORDANTIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDER

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO	Ordy
17:30	Sports N.B.A.
18:00	News in French
19:00	Le Journal De L'Histoire
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	"Too Close for Comfort"
21:10	Ocean World
22:00	News in English
22:30	Film "Till Murder Do Us Part"

PRAYER TIMES

04:56	Fajr
06:18	(Sunrise) Duhr
11:27	Dhuhr
14:13	Asr
16:36	Maghreb
17:58	Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church	Swefish. Tel. 816740
Assemblies of God Church	Tel. 637385
St. Joseph Church	Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation	Tel. 637440
De La Salle Church	Tel. 661757
Terresanta Church	Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation	Tel. 623541

WEATHER

It will be partly cloudy with a chance of showers, and winds will be northerly to westerly. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy, winds will be northerly to moderate and sea calm.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman	6/15
Aqaba	12/22
Deserts	6/17
Jordan Valley	11/21

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 17, Aqaba 23. Humidity readings:

Amman 45 per cent. Aqaba 49 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:	
Dr. Bassem Qaddumi	648633
Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad	846070
Dr. Fakhri Tayeh	885980
Dr. Youssef Al Faqih	756988
First pharmacy	661912
Fordwys pharmacy	778336
Al Asema pharmacy	637055
Nairoukh pharmacy	636672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmiciani pharmacy	637660
Nairoukh pharmacy	636672
Najid pharmacy	847632

RRBD:

Dr. Ahmad Qurtu	()
Al Oudh pharmacy	()

ZARQA:

Dr. Issa Al Dhamri	901266
Khalil pharmacy	985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	109
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blind Bank	775121
Madina	843402
Traffic Police	893230
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605800
Water and Sewerage	661176
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	
Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Jordan Electricity	680100
Electric Power Company	815615

HOSPITALS

RJ Flight Information	08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport	08-53200

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (05)532005, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
06:55	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:00	Jeddah (RJ)
09:15	Larnaca (RJ)
16:35	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
16:45	Istanbul (RJ)
17:25	Brussels, Paris (RJ)
18:00	Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
18:10	Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
18:10	Toronto, Montreal (RJ)
18:30	Rome (RJ)
21:30	Cairo (RJ)
23:10	Aqaba (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

05:05	Rome (AZ)
09:35	Cairo (MS)
10:30	Jeddah (SA)
10:30	Sanaa (YF)
12:25	Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)
14:35	Karachi, Abu Dhabi (PI)
18:15	Paris, Damascus (AF)
19:45	Rabat (ME)

HOME
NEWS
IN BRIEFPrincess Sarvath
receives Princess
Shaharian

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Al Hassan Tuesday received Her Royal Highness Princess Tunku Shaharian, daughter of the former King of Malaysia and Chairperson of the Muslim Women's Welfare Council in the Malaysian state of Johor. Princess Shaharian inspected several projects run by the Young Women's Muslim Association (YWMA) which is chaired by Princess Sarvath, and praised the association's performance in the area of rehabilitation of the handicapped.

Princess Alia visits
Dheibet Al
Jahawsheh

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein Tuesday visited Dheibet Al Jahawsheh village in Muwaqqar, southeast Amman, where she met with local community leaders and listened to their requests. The leaders focussed on the lack of social services. Princess Alia also called at the Social Development Centre in Muwaqqar and was briefed by its director on its activities. The Princess said her visit was aimed at encouraging women to play an active role in supporting family income. She added that the Rural Women Development Society will establish a carpet factory in the village and urged women to join this industry.

WHAT'S
GOING
ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ UNRWA exhibition of Palestinian embroidery and greeting cards at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation (10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.)
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Edelbert Della at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Beotr Bheuzczak at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of prints and drawings by Fakhr El Niss-Zeid at Darat Al Funn of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh. Also showing the permanent exhibition (Saturday-Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.)
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by a number of Iraqi artists at La Casa Art Gallery (between the 5th and 6th Circles).
- ★ Exhibition of sewing equipment at the Royal Cultural Centre (11:00 - 7:00 p.m.).
- ★ Exhibition of Lebanese products at Philadelphia Hotel.
- ★ Second Jordanian exhibition of cotton and woolen products at the World Exhibition Hall — University Road (11:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.)
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by artist Khalid Khreis at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of watercolours by artist Shaber Jirni at the Goethe Institute.
- ★ Photographic exhibition on the Intifada at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation (8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.)
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Farghali Abdel Hafez at the Balka Art Gallery in Al Fuhels (10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.) (Tel. 720902).
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by several Jordanian and Iraqi artists at the Orfali Art Gallery in Um Uthaina.

FILMS

- ★ Film entitled "The Entertainer" at the British Council at 7:00 p.m. (97 minutes).

SPORTS ROUND-UP

- ★ A one-hour programme featuring a condensation of the most popular games of the week with play-by-play announcement at the American Centre at 5:00 p.m.

Deputies enter 3rd day of debate over vote of confidence

AMMAN (J.T.) — Lower House of Parliament deputies Tuesday continued their debate over a vote of confidence for the government of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali. Excerpts from the Statements of 19 deputies who spoke in Tuesday's session follow.



Samir Habashneh
(Karak District) (PDC)

I start by saying that democracy is not merely about personal freedoms or forming political parties but the freedom for the whole society and for the achievement of social justice that would benefit those groups who continue to suffer as a result of unjust economic decisions that favour certain groups.

Democracy is building up a state of the law and democratic institutions which can reestablish social stability and can deal with the causes of poverty and unemployment.

We are facing a major national challenge that can be dealt with only through a comprehensive vision and pooling of all material and manpower potential and insuring justice for all.

We are required to deal with the challenges facing us objectively by maintaining control over the government's behaviour, and through legislation and appraisal of the government's performance.

We should not remain silent over the blunders of the government and allow it to win the confidence of the people at this critical stage in our history.

We have to reestablish Arab national and pan-Arab Islamic ideologies on a scientific and responsible basis. We have to work towards reestablishing close links between the nationalist Arabs and the Islamists. Indeed, both sides have more common grounds for agreement than discord.

Our work in Parliament ought to lead us to spread awareness among the public against normalisation of relations with the enemy and to stand firm in face of the trend towards adopting the Western style consumerism which is a weapon of the neo-colonialists who aim at imposing domination on the nation and its future.

To do all this, we are in need of support for our work from the education system, the un-

versities, and the youth organisations and others.

Our Parliament should take the initiative in forming national task forces to maintain links with the nationalists and Islamist forces throughout the Arab World.

In my view the present government is not in a position to deal with these enormous challenges. Indeed throughout its performance to date the government has met with failure.

For instance the present government dissolved the former parliament for no convincing reason. This is a retreat from the course of democracy.

The government barred its employees from writing in the local press, prohibited the establishment of forums like the Socialist Thought Forum although these can enhance democracy. The government has also tried to impose control on political party meetings and committed numerous mistakes which damaged the image of democracy, like refusing to include deputies in the cabinet — A move aimed at marginalising the parliament's role.

By appointing people in posts far from their own specialisation, the government has acted against the principle of placing the right person in the right position and killed its own slogan of upholding administrative reform.

I demand that Jordan have its own separate national team to conduct talks with Israel. Its members should have vast capabilities and efficiency and be eligible to handle such a serious issue. We should not appear to be running after peace at any price.



Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh
(Irbid District) (Jordanian National Front — JNF)

I start by calling on the Information Minister to instruct Jordan Television to forecast my full speech or otherwise completely ignore it. This is because the summaries of the deputies' speeches presented by Jordan Television so far did not reflect their contents and meanings.

When tomorrow the prime minister replies to the deputies' speeches his entire speech will be broadcast and this is his right. But the listeners and viewers will be hearing replies to subjects they missed in the deputies' speeches.

I pledge allegiance to the King and appreciate his firm

stand in the face of challenges and his drive to enhance democracy, freedom and peoples' rights.

I am bound through strong ties of friendship with the prime minister that lasted for a quarter of a century. I have come to realise that he is a very efficient administrator and faithful friend, and I feel grateful to him for many things.

Yet out of my responsibility entrusted to me by the public I have no alternative but to forget sentiments for a while when assessing the government's policies and achievements.

The present government believes in electric shock therapy which stuns but does not kill and keeps the stunned person living in constant horror of the thought of a second shock whose timing is still unknown.

Jordan has experienced several shocks under this government and these include:

- 1 — The dissolution of the 11th House of Parliament.
- 2 — The amendment of the Election Law and the passing of the temporary Election Law.
- 3 — The call for separating the executive from the legislative authorities. To peddle this policy, the government lately made several statements to justify its action of dedicating the executive authority to ruling and the legislative authority in order to control government behaviour.

Based on this assumption deputies can not become ministers. But the government must have forgotten that the Constitution allows deputies to be ministers.

Furthermore the government's organs began to offend the deputies' dignity by accusing them of seeking ministerial portfolios, alleging that their lust had caused ministerial instability.

This can only be interpreted as a new sword of intimidation hanging over the deputies' heads, stifling their voices so that they would not be accused of seeking ministerial posts.

We would like the government to show us a democratic state where the two authorities are absolutely separated, except in the United States where the president is the head of the executive authority.

But before the U.S. president is "elected" by the people, assisted by no prime minister or cabinet, but secretaries of state appointed by the president with approval from the Congress which also approves the appointment of judges, ambassadors and others.

There could be a separation, but it should be accompanied by balanced cooperation and mutual control. That is to say that one can be a minister and deputy, and at the same time should be subject to questioning by Parliament.

But this government does not see cooperation except in matters which please it and applaud its actions, and for this reason it resorts to dissolving parliament, unperturbed by protests.

In my view, democracy

means other things rule of the majority, be it a political party or a coalition of parties. The majority should form a government which could be set up after due consultations with the various blocs.

Without this practice, the people or their representatives would be excluded from governing. And under the present system only those favoured by the prime minister or those who can protect their own interests are allowed to rule.

Under this system those who failed to be elected to Parliament try to ensure for themselves ministerial posts by trying to win favour with the prime minister.

4 — The formation of the present government comprises Cabinet members who hold similar views, supporting the prime minister, but it is far from being equitably representative of the nation.

5 — Appointments in government positions reflect the nature of the government's structure. These employees are of the same colour, all secretaries general, provincial governors, ambassadors, managers and advisors. They had been promised senior posts once they expressed loyalty to the government.

6 — On norms and constitutional excesses, the government has refused to submit its resignation after holding the elections according to norms. It is true that the government has the right to stay on, but it is equally true that the norms ought to be respected for the sake of enhancing democracy.

7 — On salary increased for Cabinet members. We were all surprised that the government increased the salaries of Cabinet members. The move came before the reshuffle so that the outgoing ministers would benefit from an increase in their pension at a time when the government employees fall within the low-income category. I call on Parliament to reject the increases.

This government is not eligible for a vote of confidence, but I delay my vote to allow it to prove its stand and until I hear replies to the following demands:

- 1 — That the government should submit draft laws on a new election law ensuring judicial control over the process; a draft law on labour to ensure minimum wages and end arbitrary dismissals; a draft law on a youth federation to mobilise youth potentials; a draft law on a farmers federation to protect farmers' interests; and a draft law on local government ensuring municipal elections.

2 — That the government speed up work by the Senate to pass a law allowing for the formation of a teachers union and a draft law on holding officials accountable for their earnings.

3 — That the government commit itself to consulting with Parliament on political developments.

4 — That the government offer Parliament its socio-economic plan for debate.

5 — That the Social Security

Corporation umbrella be expanded.

6 — That the government re-examine the status of the senior public administration with a view to serving justice and equality.

7 — That it work out a national plan to deal with poverty and unemployment.

8 — That it improve employees' salaries.

9 — That it apply the principle of equality in upgrading districts into governorates.

10 — That it commit itself to finishing work on the Irbid-Amman road.

11 — That it reform the health system in the Irbid governorate.

12 — That it conduct investigations into the controversy over the Karameh Dam.

13 — That the House get documented information about a JD12 million trade deal with Iraq awarded to two particular merchants without the knowledge of the former Minister of Industry and Trade, and about the government intention to sell its share in the JETT Bus Company to a particular person who had earlier sold his shares in the same company and now resides in Jerusalem, and about the government intention to sell Al Shaab Press and Publication to a particular buyer.



Fayadh Jarrar
(Zarka District) (JNF)

I demand that the government give priority to the internal front; to improve national unity in the real sense by translating that into action; to give the opportunity to all Jordanians of various origins, to secure their entitlements, and no less, of jobs in the government and in public institutions according to one standard, a standard that guarantees ability and the required training standard.

I demand that the government promote the democratic march led by His Majesty King Hussein; speed up the transfer of the Centre for Freedom and Democracy protect to the Lower House of Parliament; concentrate on increasing pluralism and the spreading of the democratic principles at various levels in Parliament, municipal and village councils.

I hope the government will abide by its promises, and maintain that it can only secure the confidence of this Parliament through accomplishments.

He also said that the premier has purposely chosen to point to the precedent of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shakir in 1991, but that there were great differences between the two cases since the government of Sharif Zeid did not dissolve Parliament and did not issue a temporary election law.

He also said he agreed with political analysts in one of the local papers who pointed out that the 1952 Constitution seen as democratic and progressive was later amended to include many articles which were added during the era of martial law.



Mustafa Sheikhat
(Balqa District) (I)

A member of the Jordanian Communist Party, Dr. Sheikhat began his speech by stressing that he had no personal grudges against any members of the Cabinet or its premier, but added that it had to be assessed according to its handling of the developments at this historic juncture of the Kingdom's history.

He said that the government has to be considered against three primary factors: the progress of democracy, handling of the economy and the principles guiding its policy on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

He said that the government of Dr. Majali is to be faulted for dissolving the 11th Parliament in what he described as "normal circumstances" that did not require the dissolving of the House.

The controversy, he said, is even more profound because it became apparent that the House was dissolved to make way for amending the Election Law to a one-person, one-vote system.

The government's decision to dissolve the former Lower House and accord itself a temporary legislative authority without an extraordinary circumstance — as was required by the Constitution — can only indicate undemocratic tendencies, disrespect for parliamentary traditions and expresses that the government wants to take control of authority and avoid the scrutiny of the legislative authority.

He also said that while the letter of the Constitution does help the premier to adopt the "Speech from the Throne" as a government policy statement, this option contradicts with the general tendency among Jordanians to practice democracy in its true sense.

He pointed out that the premier has purposely chosen to point to the precedent of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shakir in 1991, but that there were great differences between the two cases since the government of Sharif Zeid did not dissolve Parliament and did not issue a temporary election law.

He also said he agreed with political analysts in one of the local papers who pointed out that the 1952 Constitution seen as democratic and progressive was later amended to include many articles which were added during the era of martial law.

The government, he said, chose to follow the letter of the amended articles which can only indicate that this government wants to pull us back to the era of martial law and extraordinary laws.

On the peace process, Dr. Sheikhat, who is not affiliated to any of the five parliamentary blocs, said that the Arab-Israeli conflict is not a regional issue but an Arab national one. Therefore, he added, all Arab countries have to work together to establish a new reality in the region which would provide the proper environment to create a peace that is not dictated by American-Israeli interests.

He said that Jordan has to commit itself to supporting the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in reasserting its authority over Jerusalem as an inseparable part of the occupied Palestinian land.

He stressed that the government cannot continue to keep the Lower House absent from the progress of negotiations on the Jordanian-Israeli track. He cited news reports of Jordan reaching agreement with Israel over the reopening of Jordanian banks in the occupied Palestinian territories. The question that has to be posed, he said, is how can there be Jordanian supervision of these banks when we do not have political authority over the areas. He also asked how can a cover be provided for the Jordanian currency, which reports said will be the currency used in the occupied territories, when millions of dinars could seep into the territories unofficially.

He also asked whether reports of the agreement stipulating that the income of the new Jordanian banks have to be deposited at the Israeli Central Bank and wondered whether this did not constitute a grave danger on the stability of the currency which, if the reports were true, could be at the mercy of the Israeli Central Bank.

On the issue of social justice, Dr. Sheikhat said he was convinced that in the absence of social justice whether in income distribution, the disparity of public services from one area to another in the Kingdom, appointments and job distribution and other aspects have become so integrated in the system of the country that it has caused the breaking of laws and regulations, becoming a symptom which contradicts the principles of democracy, progressiveness and stability.

On the economic social level, he said that the Five-Year Development Plan has been tailored to fit the readjustment programme which was forced upon the Kingdom by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

That is why, he added, the country is unable to resolve the problem of unemployment or poverty. The government's commitment to the letter of the programme's medicine has only served to add to the count.

(Continued on page 5)

Pre-teen engagement shocks
child, women rights activists

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Two weeks ago Jordan Television aired a news item announcing the engagement of the "youngest couple" in Jordan that sent shock waves through the community and became the subject of debate among child and women's rights activists and legal experts.

The boy, Alla, is 11, and Mariam, his fiancée, is 12. The occasion was celebrated with prayers from the Jordanian mosque and the family's joyous celebration.

Mariam is one of 11 children; eight girls and three boys. The family live in a small village.

Her mother, in an interview with the Jordan Times, claims that her brother, Alla's father, in defiance of another brother, the richer of the two, wanted to lay claim to Mariam before his brother did.

In an attempt to convince her husband, whom she maintains suffers from mental illness, against going through with the engagement, Mariam's mother was nearly hit by him, she said. "I have not stopped crying since the engagement, only God can help me," she said.



Alla (11) places an engagement ring on his fiancée Mariam (12)

old enough to make such decisions.

In the meantime Alla's parents, who live in the Wihdat camp, were overjoyed with the engagement of their eldest son.

The mother of Alla told the Jordan Times her son has dropped out of school and is currently working in a shoe factory to earn money to support his future bride.

The various groups and organisations contacted by the Jordan Times expressed outrage and went as far as

calling the engagement a crime against the rights of children.

The Jordanian Women's Union (JWU) called on officials to take strict measures against violations of rights of underaged children.

JWU went further to demand amending the Civil Status Law in order to impose restrictions on early engagements similar to the marriage law.

Furthermore, JWU said broadcasting this event in public will encourage weak

students to initiate the same alternative (dropping out of school early) that Alla chose and possibly end up employed in hard labour.

Farouk Nughawi, the assistant secretary general for legal affairs of the Ministry of Social Development, in a statement to the Jordan Times, reiterated the opinion that it was an abuse of children's rights and totally unacceptable at a time when Jordan had only recently signed the International Treaty on Children's Rights.

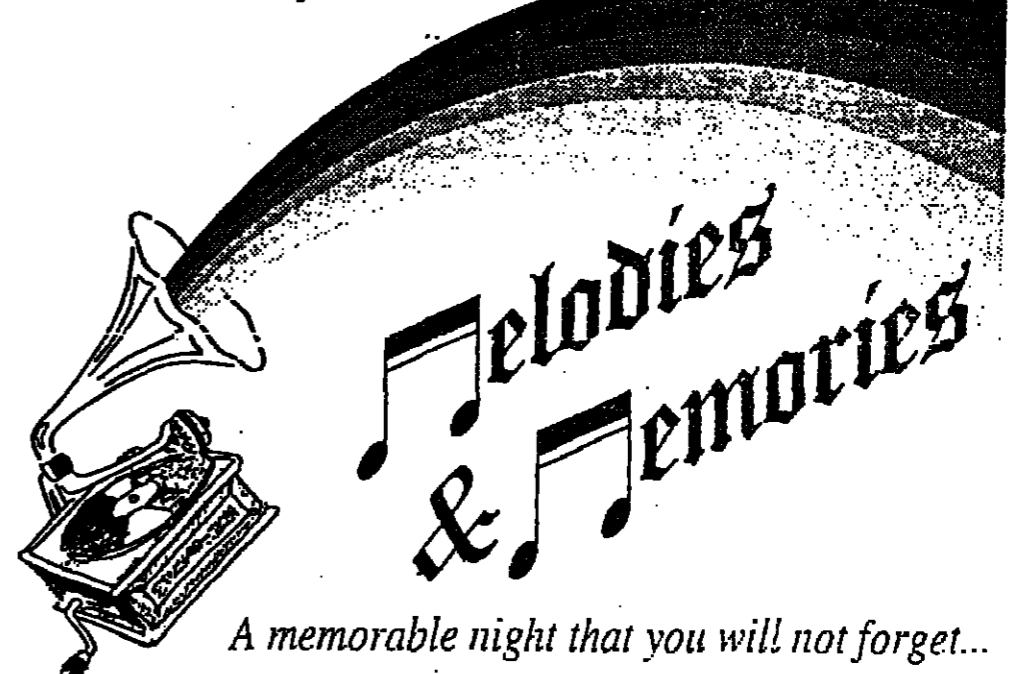
According to Jordanian law, the minimum age for marriage is 15, and although engagement is not marriage it is the first serious step preceding marriage.

When asked about his view of the television coverage, Mr. Nughawi said it was wrong to publicise such events and that its effects were negative on the viewers in that such news broadcasts set a wrong example and reflect a poor image of Jordanian society.

Early engagements are not new in the society, he claims. Girls in many parts of the country are made to leave school at a young age to become housewives. Mr. Nughawi said, maintaining that the problem is not engagement itself, but that publicising this event caused problems and anger.

The solution, he proposed, are educational programmes to enlighten families on the negative effects of engagement and marriage at an early age.

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Tickets are sold at the Promise Welfare Society Center tel. 817723.

Arabs propose worldwide tax for environmental protection

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab states, which control 60 per cent of global oil reserves, are proposing a worldwide tax that could raise more than \$4 billion a year to protect the environment.

The idea is seen as a "fair" alternative to a proposed European Community (EC) energy tax, which has caused alarm in oil-producing states on the grounds it would slow down demand for crude and depress their earnings.

"There are several more effective and fair alternatives to the taxes on oil products," Arab states said in their 1993 joint economic report, prepared by the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) and two other regional organisations.

"The first is the imposition of a worldwide income tax of 0.25 per cent, which could fetch around \$4 billion a year in the industrial countries and

\$750 million in developing nations," the report said.

"The sum could be used to clean and protect the environment," it added.

It is the latest in a series of Arab proposals to persuade the 12-nation EC to steer away from its planned tax, which the Community says is designed to protect the environment by containing the emission of carbon dioxide.

But Arab and other oil producers charge the EC's real aim is to secure extra revenue to tackle domestic budget deficits.

Reservations from Britain and other EC nations have held up enforcement of the tax, which will levy \$3 on every imported barrel of oil, to rise to \$10 by the year 2000.

"Imposing taxes on oil products will not protect the environment nor will it curb crude imports," said the Arab

report, part of which was carried by the official Kuwaiti News Agency (KUNA). "They will only achieve large increases in government revenues in industrial countries at the expense of oil producers."

Gulf Arab states have strongly attacked the tax on the grounds it would affect them most as oil accounts for nearly 90 per cent of their income.

Around four million barrels per day (b/d) of their oil output goes to the EC, while 2.8 million b/d are exported to Japan and two million b/d to the United States.

One of the scenarios on the effects of the carbon tax on Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states is that it will depress their earnings by \$14 billion a year, hurting their development plans.

The revenues of GCC states

— Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — are already under pressure from a sharp decline in oil prices.

Since 1981, their earnings have been slashed nearly threefold to \$70 billion in 1992.

"Definitely, Arab oil and gas exports will be hurt by the policies of the industrial nations," said the Arab report, also prepared by the Arab Monetary Fund and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development.

"Imposing taxes on oil products will also boost consumption of coal and burning of wood, which will cause further damage to the environment."

It said Arab oil exports stood at 38.3 per cent of the total world crude exports of 39.7 million b/d in 1992, while natural gas exports accounted for 12.1 per cent of the total world gas supplies.

Asian stock markets close mostly higher

TOKYO (R) — Most Asian markets rose sharply Tuesday, with Hong Kong, Singapore, Manila and Kuala Lumpur shares all soaring to new highs, while the dollar was little changed in directness trade.

Hong Kong's blue chip Hang Seng index closed at a record 9,736.57, up 126.88 points, or 1.32 per cent, though profit-taking trimmed more than half of the early gains, brokers said.

The index reached an intraday high of 9,837.36. The previous closing high of 9,733.34 and intraday high of 9,825.5 were reached on Nov. 15.

The index came down quickly after hitting the new record as investors started to look at political issues when the Hang Seng was getting near to 10,000," said Priscilla Ng, institutional sales at Sun Hung Kai Securities.

Singapore shares were at a record as institutions showed renewed interest in local shares, spurring speculative retail investment, dealers said.

The 30-share Straits Times industrial index closed at a record high of 2,163.54, up 16.00 points from Monday's close.

at 107.95 yen and 1.7028 marks, little changed from its Monday New York closing at 107.90/00 yen and 1.7011/16 marks.

"Foreign banks in particular start to adjust their positions around this time every year to settle their profits and losses," said Masamichi Yasuda, assistant manager at Bank of Tokyo in Tokyo.

Elsewhere in Asia, Philippine stocks also ended at new highs, buoyed by a rebound in other regional markets and growing optimism about the economy, brokers said.

The Manila composite index jumped 75 points to close at 2,509, easily surpassing the previous high of 2,467 set on Nov. 3.

The Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange composite index also set a new high of 1,063.25 points, up 22.14 points, or 2.13 per cent from Monday's close.

Tokyo stocks ended modestly higher in volatile trade on a technical rebound helped by short-covering, but the market failed to sustain bullishness as investors were sidelined to await the government's economy-boosting plans.

The 225-share Nikkei average rose 63.11 points to 16,903.49.

Australian shares were up, with resources stocks the star performers. The All Ordinaries closed up 20.2 points, or a touch under one per cent, at 2,073.9.

Lloyd's offers £900m to ruined members

LONDON (AFP) — The Lloyd's insurance market is offering to pay £900 million (\$1.35 billion) in damages to members hit by massive losses in recent years, Lloyd's Chairman David Rowland said Tuesday.

The initial reaction to the offer by the few names present was hostile. Demand for compensation totals £3.15 billion.

The amount offered in compensation to about 21,000 members, known as names, was in line with the figure expected by financial circles.

The members have until the end of January to decide if they will accept the offer. Amicable agreement would avert litigation between members shouldering the biggest losses and the insurance agents whom they accuse of negligence and incompetence in the management of funds and risks.

A Lloyd's spokesman said that funds to pay compensation had been raised through a committee for errors and omissions which insures agents against litigation by names, the Central Fund of Lloyd's which

is based on contributions by names, and donations by agents.

Many names, who put their entire personal wealth behind the market, face severe financial difficulties or even ruin arising from losses of £5.5 billion reported by the market during a three-year period.

A record loss of £2.9 billion was reported in 1990, the last year for which results are available since results are published after a three-year delay to allow for the settlement of claims.

The executive director of Lloyd's, Peter Middleton, said that the sum of £900 million was the most that the organisation could pay now.

Managers of Lloyd's have described the offer as fair and equitable and have warned names that if they rejected it and took action in the courts, they would forfeit the contribution from the Central Fund as part of an amicable settlement.

The names are prevented by law from taking action against Lloyd's and their only recourse is against their agents.

Labour situation worsens in Japan

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's economic Planning Agency said Tuesday that the country's labour situation was deteriorating, particularly in the manufacturing sector, showing a further decline in the economy.

In its December economic report to the cabinet, the agency said the economy was "in adjustment phase, and continues to be sluggish in general due to such factors as the yen's appreciation."

However, the agency gave a poor diagnosis for the labour market, saying: "Centering on the manufacturing industry, severance is seen," and driving home the point that the prolonged economic slump was hurting employment.

The report, based on the latest available economic data, showed the ratio of job openings to job seekers, had steadily dropped to 0.67 in October — or 67 job openings to every 100 job seekers. It is the lowest level since June 1987.

The agency did not make any reference to a "recovery," a term which has been used in other recent reports.

The December report failed to mention a new package of economic stimulus measures the ruling coalition has been seeking.

The package, widely expected to include income tax cuts, seemed imminent last Friday when chief cabinet secretary Masayoshi Takemura agreed with government policy makers on the need to implement pump-priming measures.

Mr. Takemura said Monday the government's top priorities were to compile a supplementary budget and get political reform legislation through the upper house by the end of the year.

Meanwhile, a leading economic newspaper's survey published Tuesday showed a majority of eligible voters wanted economic stimulus measures to be given higher priority than political reform.

The survey, conducted by the Nihon Keizai Shimbun from Friday to Sunday, found that 53.3 per cent of the respondents wanted the cabinet to give priority to stimulative measures while 21.1 per cent favoured giving political reforms priority.

The telephone survey covered 3,000 eligible voters with a 4.6 per cent response.

"The poll found that the public approval rate of the Hosokawa cabinet slipped by 4.9 percentage points to 64.7 per cent compared with the daily's previous survey in August,

while those who disapprove of the cabinet rose 5.1 percentage points to 14.9 per cent."

On monetary issues, Bank of Japan Governor Yasushi Mieno said Tuesday interest rates were sufficiently low to support corporate investment, checking speculation of an early cut in the bank's official discount rate, now standing at an already record low of 1.75 per cent.

"Current interest rates are at a level which can support corporate investment," Mr. Mieno said in a public address at a Tokyo hotel.

The central bank "continues to watch carefully" the expected effects of economic stimulus measures taken so far, Mr. Mieno said.

Mr. Mieno also called for measures to help financial institutions write off their bad loans.

He noted a system in the United States converting the non-performing loans into debt securities, saying: "We cannot bring the U.S. system immediately here, but there are many aspects we can make reference to."

Mr. Mieno said the Japanese economy was facing a prolonged slowdown, with private demand yet to provide material signs of a recovery.

Weak demand reflects the depth of the inventory adjustment after the burst of the bubble economy in the late 1980s, along with balance sheets adjustment stemming from lower asset values.

Mr. Mieno also said declining expected growth rates were reflected in worsening business sentiment.

In these circumstances, the Bank of Japan has made its utmost efforts to support the economy by lowering the official discount rate by 4.25 percentage points over the past few years, Mr. Mieno said.

Earlier Tuesday, Mr. Mieno said the yen had peaked against the dollar.

Manae Kubota, director general of the Economic Planning Agency, said the central bank governor told a morning meeting of economic ministers that "the conditions for a sharp rise in the yen have tapered off."

She said Mr. Mieno noted that the dollar had been recently hovering around the level of 108 yen, up from barely 100 yen earlier this year, and that this reflected economic fundamentals.

"The U.S. economy is on a path of moderate recovery, while the Japanese economy remains stagnant," he said.

"The undertone is still very bullish and prices are likely to remain firm today and probably tomorrow," said Anthony Lee, a trader at Baring Securities.

In the foreign exchange market, trading was confined mostly to position adjustments and the dollar closed in Tokyo

on Sunday to as much as 90 on Monday.

Subway and bus tickets were increased by five times, to 150 and 100 coupons respectively. Many bus routes already have been cut back or stopped altogether because of the energy crunch.

Ukraine is still heavily dependent for fuel on Russia, which has said it began charging world prices in early 1994.

Ukraine's government and parliament, dominated by former communist functionaries, have implemented few economic reforms in two years of independence from the Soviet Union.

Analysis said the price hikes Monday were another step back toward a Soviet-style economy. "Ukraine continues to head toward a full, administrative command economy," said Veniamin Sikora, an economics professor at the Institute of International Relations in Kiev.

Oleksander Duntau, a centrist parliament member, said the move "may lead to a social catastrophe."

"Prices have tripled, yet the lack of social programmes will make people have anger, the people don't believe anyone anymore," he said.

Struggling Ukraine raises prices sharply

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukrainians already suffering from 70 per cent monthly inflation and a chronic fuel shortage were dealt another blow Monday when the government sharply raised prices on food, energy and transportation.

Prices on bread, milk, eggs, meat and other staples tripled.

"I'm still in a state of shock — I don't know what we are going to do," said Viktoriya Hubsy, standing in line to buy a litre of milk for her two young children. The bottle cost more than 5,000 Karbovatnyts compared to about 2,000 a day earlier.

The transitional currency, which replaced the Russian rouble when Ukraine declared independence from the Soviet Union, is more often called simply "coupons."

The minimum wage has been 40,000 coupons, roughly \$2. Parliament tripled it last week to 120,000 coupons — about \$4 — but so far the increase hasn't filtered down into people's paychecks.

This electricity prices in rural areas shot up to 50 coupons per kilowatt-hour from 20 on Sunday.

In cities, the price rose from 25 coupons per kilowatt-hour

on Sunday to as much as 90 on Monday.

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Moscow approves \$4.47 b deficit for last quarter

MOSCOW (R) — The Russian government has endorsed a budget deficit of 5.5 trillion roubles (\$4.47 billion) for the last quarter of 1993, Finance Minister Boris Fyodorov said Tuesday. This would produce a 1993 deficit equal to 10 per cent of the gross national product (GNP), he told a Moscow news conference.

Approval of the fourth quarter deficit had been delayed after several ministries projected increases in spending

ahead of the Dec. 12 parliamentary elections. It is unclear how the budget will accommodate a doubling of minimum wages to the equivalent of \$12 by President Boris Yeltsin Monday.

Few Russians earn the minimum wage but it is used by the government as a base for calculating salaries and other social payments and the increase means extra government spending.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 8, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is the day for you to study and consider the ways and means by which you will be able to modernise your personal properties. An unexpected opportunity could come your way this evening.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You now can communicate with those at a distance and let them know your plans where trips or seeing them in the future may be concerned.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Put on your thinking cap about the various private arrangements that you can make with confidential advisors to get ahead faster with your ambitions.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Now you have a good day to be a gregarious person and see your friends and acquaintances and make a point to meet persons unknown to you before this.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Consider well what your worldly aims are and what you can do to approach them from new and untried ways with the assistance of bigwigs.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You have the inspiration now to gain some farreaching and reaching new aims that appeal to you so go after them with courage and with confidence.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Consider well what you can do that is different than can

bring you into closer rapport with one to whom you are physically drawn and be happy.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 23) Seek out the most ambitious and dynamic persons with whom you have any contact and find out what they will do to help you further your public aims.

SCORPIO: (October 24 to November 21) Pitch into whatever tasks you have to do and the new ideas and ways you can think of to increase your operative skill will now be helpful.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Early make engagements and appointments with mate or close companions to go out on the town to new and different amusements than you have enjoyed.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Think about the persons you would like to know better and ask them into your home as guests so you can become better acquainted with them.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You like to be active and dash around seeing as many persons as possible and coming to a new understanding with them so use this day wisely.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) A very good day to consider your assets and just what you can do to have a greater abundance to spare in the days ahead so be alert to them.

Cosea: Romanian economy must be reformed quickly

LONDON (AFP) — Romania must take tough decisions within the next six months or lose the chance to reform its economy, Mircea Cosea, Romania's recently appointed economic reform coordinator said Tuesday.

"We have wasted too much time before getting down to serious structural economic re-

forms," he told the Financial Times newspaper in an interview.

Mr. Cosea, speaking during an investment conference organised by the Confederation of British Industries, said he would use the new executive powers granted to his economic reform council last month "to eliminate loss-mak-

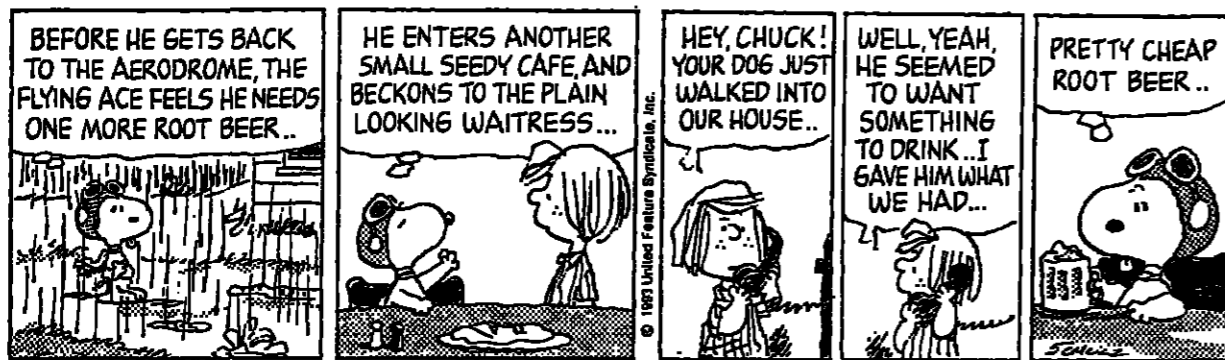
ing enterprises, speed up privatisation and liberalise the foreign exchange market."

The reluctance of the shaky coalition government to allow the leu, the Romanian currency, to be determined by market forces has been a main sticking point in long negotiations with the International Monetary Fund for a new standby agree-

ment.

"Without a real exchange rate the entire economy is distorted, leading to degradation and deformation," Mr. Cosea said. "But up until now the government has feared to act because of the social consequences of the probable 28 to 30 per cent devaluation of the leu which would result."

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff

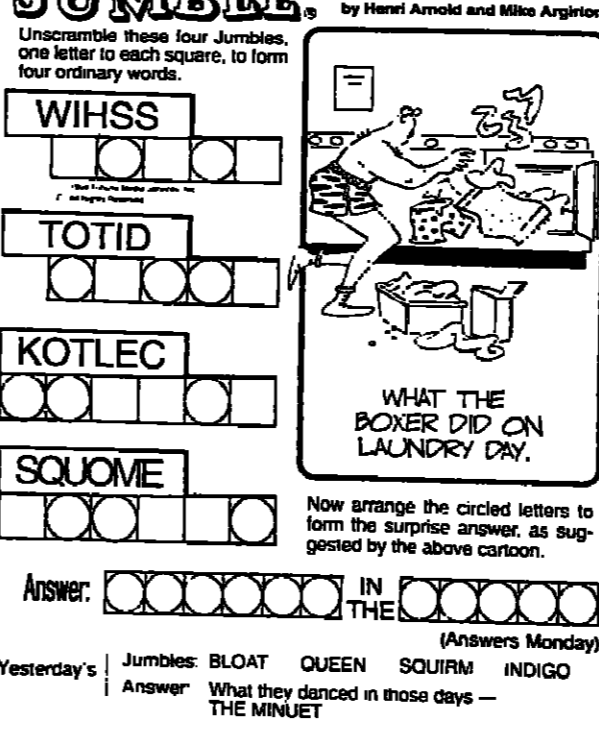


THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

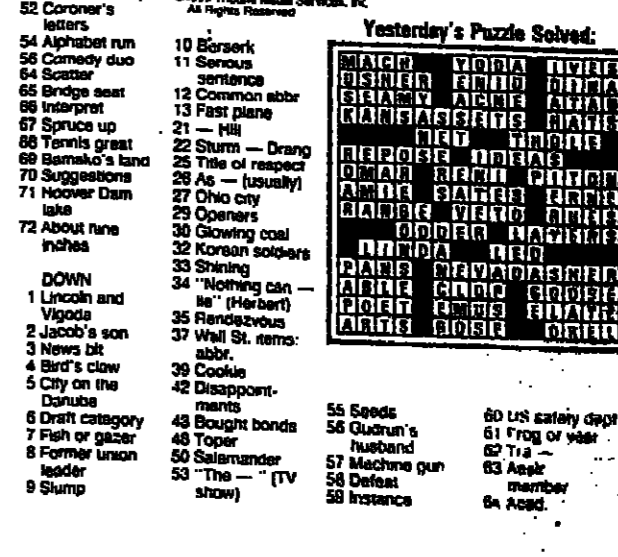
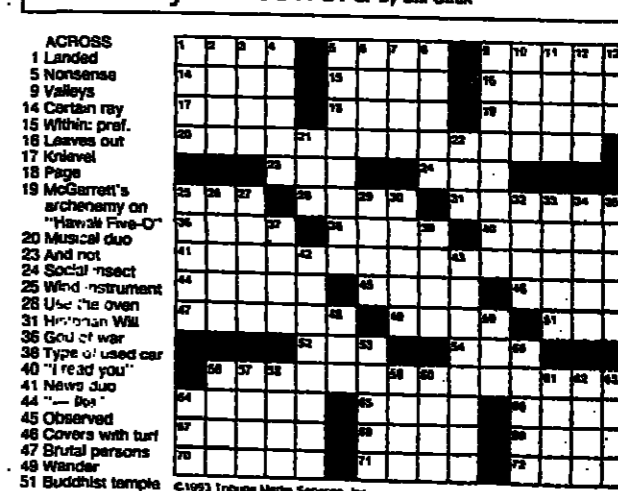


"Our vacation budget is tight this year. I can afford to fax a picture of us to Disneyland."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME



THE Daily Crossword by Bill Clark



هكذا صنع القليل

UNRWA report welcomes prospects for change

United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Commissioner-General Ilter Türkmen expresses the hope that the signing of the Declaration of Principles between the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Israel on Sept. 13, 1993, "marks a turning point in the region and in the West Bank and Gaza in particular."

In his preface to UNRWA's Annual Report to the United Nations General Assembly released on Oct. 5 in New York, Mr. Türkmen says that "the real significance of this report lies in the fact that it underscores how vital it was to reach such an agreement." He also voices hope that "the report... which includes the period between 1 July 1992 and 30 June 1993... covers an era which has gone forever."

During 1992, more than 45 per cent of UNRWA funds were devoted to education, Mr. Türkmen reported. Nearly 393,000 elementary and preparatory pupils were enrolled in the agency's 641 schools. About 4,500 students received trade, technical and vocational training in the agency's eight centres during the year. The agency took initial steps to upgrade the qualifications of teachers by replacing its existing two-year teacher training courses with a four-year university-level course.

Over 20 per cent of agency expenditure was on health. The effectiveness of UNRWA's primary health care services was confirmed by a recent UNICEF study which found that infant and child mortality rates among residents in refugee camps, most of whom receive health care from UNRWA, were significantly lower than for those living in towns and villages in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Relief and social services absorbed about 13 per cent of total agency expenditure during 1992, Mr. Türkmen reported. By June 1993, 6.5 per cent of the refugee population agency-wide qualified for special assistance. Budgetary constraints forced the agency to freeze the number of refugee families receiving special hardship assistance, including urgently needed shelter rehabilitation, at the 1993 spending level. As a result of greater involvement by local communities, development programmes for needy refugees, especially women and disabled people, were expanded during the year.

Curfews, closures and plummeting local incomes meant that the demand for emergency food aid greatly exceeded the amount budgeted for the West Bank and Gaza Strip. At the end of March 1993, the West Bank and Gaza Strip were sealed off from Israel. The closure cut off some 150,000 Palestinians from approximately \$2.75 million per day in wages they had previously earned in Israel. UNRWA distributed its available stocks of flour to 39,000 needy families in the West Bank and 120,000 families in Gaza and issued an emergency appeal for imported staples such as flour, rice and sugar.

With many shelters built as temporary accommodation in the 1950s and 1960s, the housing stock in refugee camps has deteriorated over the years, largely due to financial constraints. The commissioner-general said that UNRWA estimates that about 5,000 shelters of families receiving special hardship assistance in the occupied territory urgently need major repair or reconstruction. Acute housing needs also exist in Lebanon, especially for about 6,000 displaced Palestine refugee families. The agency only had funding to rehabilitate about 630 shelters throughout its area of operations during the year. Emergency repairs were completed to about 1,150 shelters.

The agency's efforts to assist the local Palestinian economy continued to expand during the year, Mr. Türkmen said. By the end of June 1993, about \$3.8 million had been disbursed in loans to over 180 small and medium-sized businesses run by Palestinians, mainly in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Poor environmental health conditions in refugee camps in the occupied territory and Lebanon represent one of the most serious health risks to refugees living in the camps. During the year, UNRWA established a new department of environmental affairs in Gaza and international consultants carried out a detailed study on strategic options to improve environmental health in the eight camps and adjacent municipalities. In the West Bank, the agency continued the construction of internal sewage schemes in eight refugee camps. In Lebanon, UNRWA continued its efforts to raise some \$12 million to implement its provisional 1991 master plan to improve water supply and solid waste management in the camps.

UNRWA disbursed \$306 million in its regular and special programmes serving some 2.8 million registered Palestine refugees during calendar year 1992. Expenditure declined from \$308.1 million in 1991, despite rising demand for services due to natural population increase and deteriorating socio-economic conditions. At the beginning of 1993, UNRWA projected a substantial budget shortfall which forced the agency to take austerity measures to contain expenditure. These measures, as well as additional contributions from some donors, helped to reduce the deficit.

Mr. Türkmen thanked the donor countries for their spontaneous offers of financial support since the signing of the Declaration of Principles to enable UNRWA to meet the challenges during the initial phase of the interim period. At the same time, he pointed out that "the need for continued assistance for the Palestine refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, and the Syrian Arab Republic should not be overlooked." The commissioner-general will present his report to the Special Political and Decolonisation Committee of the U.N. General Assembly which will consider the work of UNRWA during the third week of November.

Ajloun could be closest race

(Continued from page 1)

its members into a leading position in the polls today. Attempts to reach such consensus were said to be under way on Sunday evening.

"There are conservative voters, especially women, who may vote Deifallah into parliament," said one observer from Ajloun about the IAF candidate.

But the Momani split is by no means the greatest or the largest in the Ajloun district. In Kufranjeh, the town with the single largest number of votes in the district, seven candidates are vying for the town's 8,072 votes. One frontrunner in the race is former Deputy Annab. But many here complain that Dr. Annab did not do enough for his district and those vowed to back his relative Farouk Annab. Three cousins from the Freihat clan are also vying for the votes in Kufranjeh.

Although Ali Zgoul the only one Muslim candidate running in Anjara, he is expected to share the town's 5,715 votes with three Christian candidates, Wadi Zuwaideh, Jamal Haddad and Majed Haddad.

are also expected to fight out a tough race with some observers believing Ahmad Qudah, one of the two candidates from the village, gaining the upper hand over this rival.

Two first cousins are running among the eight Christian candidates. Mazen Al Rabadi is running against Farah Al Rabadi to win some of their clan's 1,800 votes. Former Christian deputy for Ajloun Jamal Haddad is backed by a slightly smaller clan.

Other Christian candidates such as Naji Maqdash, Fahim Mazabreh and Farah Ayoub are all expected to win clan and other votes in Ajloun.

"Many of the Christian candidates are professionals, lawyers and doctors, and they have done well in their neighbourhoods; Muslims whom they served may also vote for them and this makes predicting a winner more difficult," said an observer in Ajloun.

According to natives of Ajloun and election observers in the district, the frontrunner in the race for the two Muslim seats, are Ahmad Qudah, Hassan Smaidi, Mohammad Saleem Momani, Deifallah Momani, Ahmad Annab, Abdul Rafan Al Freihat, Maan Freihat and Jamil Bani Ata.

Few more snips for next four years: Foul play should be preempted; Islamist sides with women while another wants to sell his house; philosophical support to cap it all

TODAY JORDANIANS

will head to the polls to choose their representatives for the 12th Parliament. This column will therefore cap a series of snippets and tidbits about campaign '93, which we hope readers and candidates alike have enjoyed, with their full sense of humour intact. Sultani Hartab, a columnist for the Al Ra'i Arabic daily who is close to the prime minister, revealed to his readers yesterday an important piece of news. Voters who have been unable to collect their voting cards due to foul play by some candidates will be able to vote today if they can prove that they had initially registered for voting and never received the needed document. Mr. Hartab quoted Dr. Majali as saying. The columnist was also kind to tell us the story behind the prime minister's decision: "My friend, Dr. Abdul Rahman Mango, is tired of running after his lost vote and he feels that the computer people who told him to forget about voting have deprived him of his most important weapon in this era of democracy, so he will continue to look for his vote until he finds it. For moral considerations I will not name the candidates — one of them was a former deputy, and another served as a minister and deputy — who are facing cases in court over this issue. Some are most likely going to ask for a tribal peace offering after one family discovered that all their cards have been hidden by one of the candidates. The prime minister has been informed of these complaints — and he has already said that those



..... نحن معك

علي أبو ظبيان
أسباجة الرين

جمال علوان
خالد الصالحى

سالم قبيلات
ديحول الصديلي

who have not picked up their cards or whose cards have been hidden by some candidates, can vote on Nov. 8 with an official proof of identity as long as their names appear on voter lists." This move by the prime minister has not been announced officially, as far as our information tells us. But it augurs well for our elections: An important tool of democracy is being returned by the government to the people from those who tried to steal it.

ISLAMIC ACTION Front candidate Sheikh Abdul Munem Abu Zant must be really worried about reelection in his Second District or else he would not have resorted to such a dramatic move as to advertise the sale of his house in Arabic papers. In an ad published in local dailies yesterday, Sheikh Abu Zant placed his usual "Vote for me" advertisement, only to find right under it the following ad also: "Hurry before it is too late. Candidate

Sheikh Abu Zant announces that he wants to sell his house to pay his debts which he had to shoulder (as a result of the campaign, presumably). The house's features: (1) The shortest house opposite Al Hashlamoun Mosque (2) The house is a basement located below street level." Attractive the house is not, but the message is powerful. By the way, Sheikh Abu Zant got the highest percentage of votes any candidate achieved in 1989 and

Campaign focused little on real issues

(Continued from page 1)

almost two weeks into the legal period allowed for campaigning, and by its initial handling of the PLO-Israel deal.

With the absence of other effective mechanisms of communications such as television, which is legally banned from promoting any political group or airing political commercials, rallies were the venues through which the 651 candidates in 1989 attacked the International Monetary Fund (IMF)-prescribed economic adjustment programme and Israel and demanded more democracy and respect for human rights.

This year, campaigning took place mainly through banners that hung above electricity poles and shops, and private visits and meetings, until the Higher Court of Justice revoked the ban on public rallies on Sept. 28 and the campaigns picked up steam.

After receiving permission to hold the rallies, independent leftist and Islamist candidates invited their followers to public meetings that injected some life into the campaign.

The mainly well-attended

the restoration of Parliament as the means to end economic hardships and stamp out alleged government corruption, voters, candidates and the government which was charged with supervising the elections in 1989 contributed to a lively election campaign in which hard economic and political issues took prominence.

Only 555,398 out of 877,000 voters who collected their voting cards (out of a total of 1.2 million registered voters) participated in the 1989 elections but the low turnout was attributed to the scepticism with which some voters greeted the then new process.

Four years after, a higher voter turnout is expected, but a lower enthusiasm for the elections has already been demonstrated.

Islamist and leftist parties hold the government responsible for their failure to address issues as weighty as the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)-Israel accord, the Jordanian-Israeli agenda for peace negotiations and the future of the democratic process itself.

They contend that the government kept them at bay from their constituencies by banning public rallies until

rallies, however, were seen to have done little to help the divided left improve its chances at the polls.

The 36 Islamic Action Front (IAF) candidates told supporters at their rallies that they were the target of a campaign aimed at reducing their representation at the House but their fiery speeches are not expected to guarantee more than 20 of them success in their bid for election.

The new electoral rules are likely to work to the disadvantage of the IAF, which can no longer rely on the organisational power that helped the Muslim Brotherhood, the core of the IAF, carry 23 of its members and 10 of its supporters and sympathisers to the House in 1989 through striking deals and alliances with other candidates.

Observers say the uncertainty about holding the elections that followed the signing of the PLO-Israeli accord led some sectors of society to question the automatic continuity of the country's democratic orientation. That too, they say, dampened enthusiasm for the campaign.

Others say the campaign did not have the fervour that the 1989 electoral race had because the fiery slogans that magnetised the public then have lost their appeal after four years of parliamentary practice that left many promises unfulfilled.

The issues themselves are different this time around, observers say. "Things today are cooler than they were four years ago," said one observer.

Observers say the electorate is no longer receptive to unrealistic slogans which it has learned Parliament cannot deliver. The candidates realised the changes and thus addressed localised yet real needs that pertain to the daily lives of the citizens.

Others insist, however,

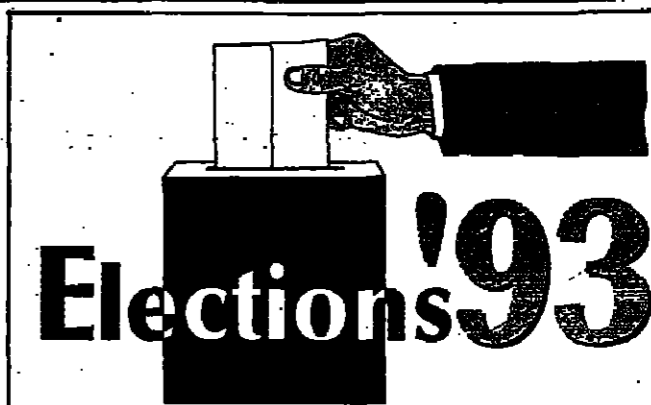
that the absence of major political issues from the electoral race was a direct result of the initially strongly expected decision to postpone the polls, which was partly based on fears that the election campaign would turn into a referendum on the Oslo accord.

These fears did materialise, however, and the electoral campaign ended with the peace process in general overshadowed by talks about services.

The peace process is also expected to be minimally affected by the 12th Parliament and the government is expected to proceed with its talks with Israel with less noise than it had to listen to from the previous Parliament.

By virtue of its likely composition, the House is expected to leave the government in charge of its foreign policy at what most observers describe as a crucial time in the history of the nation.

The debate that deputies would launch, observers say, would be similar to the one that candidates raised in the run-up to the election day.



appears to be headed for an encore this time too.

PERHAPS THE only real breakthrough in the Nov. 8 campaign is a column published by independent Islamist columnist Mohammad Sbeih yesterday. Under the heading "Men... ensure that women reach Parliament," Mr. Sbeih said that he attended a meeting during which the two Circassian candidates for the Third District discussed their opinions and aired their views on the political, social, and economic issues in Jordan. "I want to say that the two candidates enjoy very high political maturity and incredible abilities for dialogue and discussions. Every one of them proved that she follows current affairs, whether political or economic." The other incredible part in his column is: "We men have to admit that we do not like to see a politicised woman in our Parliament, especially if she enjoys a higher level of political maturity and ability than the men. We have to admit that we hate to see women in Parliament demanding that the Civil Status Law be changed because we feel it takes away from our hegemony over them... We hate to see women being consulted because we enjoy being the only consultants and we want women only to obey." To Mr. Sbeih, who joined the Islamic Action Front as a founding member before resigning in protest over its "undemocratic favouritism towards the Muslim Brotherhood Movement," one must raise his or her hat immediately.

WHOEVER SAID sports

cannot help in politics? Fahd Al Bayaari, a mainstream Palestinian candidate for the Second District of Amman, published an ad yesterday asking the masses of Al Wihdat Club to vote for him. Mr. Bayaari is the president of this club, which has stood as a symbol of Palestinian nationalism for the majority of the Palestinian refugees residing in Al Wihdat camp. But it is not actually all apolitical, because Mr. Bayaari is a well-known Fateh supporter and his candidacy is seen by many politicians as a test of Fateh's influence in the camp. And if it means dipping into football memorabilia to support the cause, he would not hesitate to do it. Would anybody?

AND BEFORE anyone screams about "foreign intervention" in local politics, Fakhri Kwar, one of the frontrunners for the Christian candidate in Amman's Third District, has all kinds of foreigners philosophising about Jordanian elections. In a letter published as an ad in local papers by the Jordanian Philosophy Society, Mr. Kwar appears to have received the endorsement of people from Egypt, the United States, Iraq, Denmark, Holland and Canada. The letter from the head of the Philosophy Society, and addressed to Mr. Kwar, announces that the Preparatory Committee for the International Union of Arab Writers and Thinkers "announces its support for you in your current parliamentary election campaign." Only philosophical intervention will not matter.

Nermeen Murad

King, premier reaffirm vow

(Continued from page 1)

Polling centres, mostly government schools, open their doors at 7 a.m. They close at 7 p.m., but district governors could use their discretion to extend the deadline for a maximum of two hours.

Vote counting starts at specific locations set aside in each of the eight governorates immediately thereafter. First results are expected after midnight, and the minister of interior is expected to hold a press conference Tuesday afternoon to formally announce the results.

Journalists who possess special cards issued by the Ministry of Information will have access to most of the polling and vote-counting centres.

Television and radio are expected to provide a round-the-clock update on the voting process and results.

Jordan Television and radio will start transmission from 18 radio and 12 television centres in different parts of the Kingdom as soon as the polling stations open and stay on the air until the formal results are announced. Information Minister Ma'n Abu Nowar said.

Dr. Abu Nowar was speaking during a visit to a press centre set up at the Royal Cultural Centre to offer services to the international media covering the elections. In addition to the centre, information will also be available at the Ministry of Information Press Office at the Inter-Continental Hotel, he said.

Candidates wound up their campaigns Sunday, with last-minute appeals to the voters with huge ads in the newspapers and new banners and posters put up at key places and going around visiting voters in what one cynic described as a "down to earth approach" to the electorate.

Reliable estimates indicate that more than JD 40 million were spent by the candidates in their frenzy to win the hearts and minds of the people through massive advertising, leaflets, posters, lavish campaign rallies and paying support staff.

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Chance to bounce back

IT HAS become obvious now, after three days of speeches by members of the Lower House of Parliament, that a vote of confidence in the government of Dr. Abdul Salam Majali will not be easy sailing. Some deputies, who had hitherto been considered as natural allies of the government, have made their support for it contingent on Dr. Majali's reply to their demands and conditions. Parliamentary coalitions that were formed in the short period between elections and the convening of the House do not seem to be unanimous in their support or opposition to the government. A great deal, therefore, seems to hinge on the prime minister's reply to deputies' accusations, queries, demands and questions. With this in mind, the government still has a handsome chance to use its reply to the critical speeches and formulate an altogether new policy statement which would better reassure deputies and elicit their support rather than opposition. Dr. Majali's total reliance, so far, on the speech from the Throne as his only programme for government and his long and bright record in the service of the country as the only basis for dealing with the House, has been the main source of criticism. But if he draws an additional policy statement that can assuage deputies' fears about, at least, his intention to pursue a more democratic method in dealing with them, he will definitely be able to win more votes to his side.

The prime minister need not do much more to address the issue of the peace process and the country's economic programme in order to convince the deputies of the viability of his government, but he needs to fend off accusations that his team is partisan and incoherent.

Regarding the peace process, Dr. Majali has nothing to fear from telling all and addressing the real concerns the parliamentarians have. Jordan is doing no wrong in handling the negotiations with Israel the way they have been handled and tackled. Jordan has no wish to outdo or outbid any Arab, nor to leave any of them behind in the search for a just, durable and comprehensive peace that returns to Arabs and Palestinians their legitimate rights. Moreover, the Kingdom's commitment to and quest for peace has been the hallmark of successive Jordanian governments, and they cannot be rolled back under any circumstances.

But, on the other hand, Dr. Majali needs to prove beyond any shadow of doubt that his government is not and will not be partisan during its stay in office. In a growing democracy, like ours, non-party governments cannot afford to favour one party over another, nor certain groups or individuals over others. The prime minister needs to assure the deputies that, in cooperation with the House, his government will introduce legislation that would make second-tier government officials non-political appointees. Appointments at below-minister levels should be fair and based on merit rather than on political affiliations or geographical representation. Likewise the prime minister would do well to address deputies' fears about corruption, mismanagement and favouritism. A serious pledge to fight these ills would greatly enhance the chances of his reply to the House becoming more widely accepted.

The prime minister can seize the opportunity provided by the deputies' criticism of the Election Law by promising to introduce to the House during its present ordinary session a new election law that would be more democratic and representative and that rectifies all the shortcomings that were found with the current law. He needs to pledge that the next elections, in accordance with the new law, would be conducted under the supervision of a body, trusted by all parties preferably the judiciary.

On the controversial issue of decentralisation, the government would probably want to heed the deputies' demands that instead of governors being given such wide responsibilities, while still under the authority of the Ministry of Interior, they should be elected by the people, as is the case in well-established democracies.

For sure democracy, meaning the rule of the people, cannot be true when governors are accountable to ministers rather than to people.

To counter the deputies' criticism of the increase in ministers' salaries, the prime minister should seek to improve the deputies' working conditions by providing them with offices and support staff to enable them to carry out their duties properly and efficiently.

On top of all these, the prime minister and his team need to articulate a clear and credible commitment to democracy. For unless he convinces his audience of deputies and Jordanians at large that he is committed to the letter and spirit of democracy, he will not find the support he seeks. Nor, for that matter, will any other government meet with success if it ignores the real wishes of the people and its true representatives.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour Tuesday expressed belief that the current debate in Parliament will have no influence on the government's pursuit of efforts on the peace process track. Taher Al Udwan said that the presence of Warren Christopher in Amman to talk about the peace process coinciding with the parliamentary debate, gives a clear indication that the government will not heed calls by some deputies to abandon the peace process. The writer expressed the view that the deputies did not call for ending the negotiations outright because they would have to propose other alternatives and other programmes which do not exist at the moment. He said that the deputies now concern themselves with the extent to which the present government would go towards implementing reforms programmes and whether the government would be successful in obtaining good results from its ongoing discussion with the Israelis, the Americans and the Palestinians at a future stage. The writer, said that Parliament is currently preoccupied with the questions of poverty, unemployment and economic issues that overshadow other concerns. For this reason, concluded the writer, the present Parliament is not expected to put real obstacles in the path of the government's endeavours to make the peace process reach a just and durable settlement.

FAHD AL F. NEK, columnist in Al Ra'i, advocated a call by a group of pan-Arab nationalists for unity that would group Jordan, Syria and Iraq. He said that the call is designed to have this unity to serve as a nucleus for a greater pan-Arab unity. Nothing should stop such an idea from being implemented, especially as the regimes in each and every capital of these countries would remain unchanged and no one ruler would be asked to sacrifice his position or relinquish his responsibilities for the sake of serving this mini-Arab unity, said the writer. He said that a tripartite confederation of these countries in what is called the Fertile Crescent would have its own weight in the politics of the region and would bolster the Arab cause and the Arab stand in the international arena.



M. KAHIL

Builders for peace — a new American initiative

By Dr. James Zogby

The tragedy and brutality of the occupation continues to torment the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza. The promise of Sept. 13 has not yet borne fruit. Instead, the cycle of violence has accelerated with dozens killed and hundreds shot and wounded. The prisons are still filled and the economy of the occupied territories is strangling.

It is not the same old story. Enemies of the Israel/PLO Declaration of Principles exist on both sides and Palestinians have been victims not only of the Israeli occupation authorities, but also of their own internal opposition. Simultaneously, Israeli right wing opponents of the accords, especially the extremist settler movements, have declared a virtual rebellion against their government and have taken their rage out against the Palestinian population.

Through these dark clouds, however, a few rays of light shine with the spirit of the Sept. 13 accords as leaders and members of both constituencies work together to sustain the momentum toward peace. Here in the United States, Arab American and American Jewish leaders have struggled through these difficult days to remain focused on building a new relationship.

Interesting new realities have developed as a result of the accords. Sept. 13 represented not so much a political or policy breakthrough (although on several levels it did) as it did a psychological breakthrough. It is true that many critical issues remain unresolved, but it also true that Arab American and American Jews are meeting together and the leadership of both communities have become invested not only in building solutions but in providing some level of mutual support for their shared peace process.

Real differences remain. Neither side has given up its goals or principles, but the accords and the act of mutual recognition have created a new political reality which places both communities in uncharted waters: learning a new language, taking on new priorities, discovering a new centre in the Middle East policy debate and working together to build a firm foundation for peace.

I am part of one such cooperative effort that was formally launched by Vice President Al Gore. It was on Nov. 29-30 that the vice president joined a prestigious group of about 80 Arab American and Jewish American business leaders to help form "Builders for peace: An American Private Sector Initiative to support Middle East Peace."

The founding events included a Monday night meeting and dinner with Mr. Gore, followed by a series of Tuesday briefings given to the group by an impressive array of Clinton administration officials.

"Builders for peace" grew out of the request from President Clinton and Vice President Gore that Arab American and American Jews and other concerned citizens organise a private initiative to stimulate the economy of the West Bank and Gaza to bring the fruits of peace to the people of the region.

Witnessing the positive encouragement for cooperation created by the Sept. 13th signing ceremony both the president and the vice president decided to match the need for economic development in the West Bank and Gaza with the expressed desire of both Arab

American and American Jews to play a constructive role in the process.

It was Vice President Gore who first contacted me and former California Congressman Mel Levine and asked us to head up this initiative. He pledged his support and that of the administration, but urged us to undertake it as a private initiative.

Recognising that the private sector can move quickly than the government, the goal of "Builders for peace" is to focus upon the development of the Palestinian private sector as the fastest way to create good jobs and opportunities and lay the groundwork for an up-graded infrastructure and a more dynamic economic environment.

As the founding document of the new initiative makes clear, as Palestinians become vested in developing their economy, Israel will also experience greater security and benefits of regional stability and cooperation.

As conceived, "Builders for peace" will organise business leaders, especially those in the Arab American and American Jewish communities to promote investment in the West Bank and Gaza. Recognising the Israeli regulatory regime has strangled the Palestinian economy, the organisation will support policies and practices to facilitate secure and profitable investment in the private sector. The guiding rationale is that successful projects will demonstrate the benefits of the peace accord to both Palestinians and Israelis.

"I think the success of this endeavour (the peace process) hinges on having an economic structure that will build and survive and create jobs to give stability in that area... I think we've reached a critical point. We're seeing the parties in the Middle East choose cooperation over confrontation. Given the history of that region, I think that ranks with the Berlin wall coming down and the end of the cold war."

"Builders for peace" asks Arab Americans and American Jews to lend their experience and expertise in joint projects that will promote understanding, cooperation and economic development. Not only will this promote prosperity and peace in the Middle East, this initiative will improve relations between these groups within the United States.

What was significant about the founding events of "Builders for peace" was not only the personal support given to the project by the vice president but the extensive participation in the project shown by other leading members of the administration.

Speakers at the events included Secretary of the Treasury Lloyd Bentsen, President of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), Ruth Harkin, Special Middle East Coordinator Dennis Ross and top officials for the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Department of Commerce, the U.S. Trade Development Agency and the U.S. Information Agency.

Vice President Al Gore reflected the tone of the two days at a reception where he greeted the supporters of

"Builder for peace." "Our top people are focused on this effort to make sure your project will be successful," he said. "I believe very strongly in the importance of this effort and in its necessity."

The roots of this initiative, it should always be remembered, was Sept. 13. When that handshake took place and also the meeting of the two communities who had never before been pulled together in the same room for a common purpose, this electrified the atmosphere and made all of us feel that this opportunity could not be squandered or wasted. I knew from that meeting that we had the chance to do something very valuable in our world.

Mr. Gore did not downplay the obstacles to implementing the accords signed Sept. 13 nor the importance of maintaining a commitment to the process.

That difficulties have arisen on both sides is not surprising. That both sides have committed themselves to surmounting those difficulties and building on the progress of Sept. 13 is what we should focus on. The glass is half full, not half empty, and we are moving in the right direction, not the wrong direction."

Treasury Secretary Bentsen also articulated his support for the initiative as a vital part of making peace a reality in the region.

"I think the success of this endeavour (the peace process) hinges on having an economic structure that will build and survive and create jobs to give stability in that area... I think

we've reached a critical point. We're seeing the parties in the Middle East choose cooperation over confrontation. Given the history of that region, I think that ranks with the Berlin wall coming down and the end of the cold war."

Mr. Bentsen added: "When there is economic security, there can be political stability."

OPIC President Ruth Harkin outlined the plans of that agency to support private sector projects in the territories, including a commitment to provide \$100 million in the form of loans, loan guarantees and political risk insurance to those American investors willing to develop projects in the territories.

OPIC assistance to the West Bank and Gaza can be leveraged to generate a quarter of a billion dollars in total private investment. Specifically, OPIC plans to:

- Provide OPIC loans and loan guarantees to help finance investment projects by U.S. firms in the West Bank and Gaza. This will include medium- and long-term project financing for U.S. investors.
- Provide OPIC political risk insurance to U.S. firms investing in the West Bank and

LETTERS

University education — after what?

To the Editor:

Dr. Majdoubeh's article "University education and future citizens — aspirations and fears" (Jordan Times, Oct. 10, 1993) triggers some thoughts that I would like to share with your readers.

The teaching process involves two major parties teachers and students, the role of which is considerably determined by the designated stage of learning. Sometimes, differentiating between school and university education is a difficulty hardly overcome by most university students. By general agreement, school students are lacking the experience and maturity of intellect necessary to the choosing of the methodology best fit for them. That is why the responsibility of their teaching lies heavily on the state academic advisers and on the public teachers.

In some educational systems, the role of school students, though crucial, is intensely minimised and restricted to passive participation, embodied in the systems emphasis on mere "memorising" and therefore obliteration of every sign of genuine creativity.

A large segment of our university students, when asked about their academic achievements, express their dissatisfaction in more than one way. Some of them, blinded by the heat of the sentiment and their want for objectivity, attribute their inactivity in class and on campus to the stagnant economic situation of the country, hoping thus to justify their slothfulness and indolence. This totally thoughtless attitude impairs the national educational standards profoundly and worsens the economic situation.

Every nation looks up to and expects a lot from its university students who, in their presumed active, responsible and tenacious manner, shape their nation's individualistic features and its respectable traditions. It is time that ours assumed their positions.

Professors seem not to have escaped the vicious tongues of some of their students who have repeatedly failed in bringing recognition to themselves as university students. Their exaggerated criticism of their professors legitimates for them their idleness. They are not more intelligent than that who fabricates a story and ends up believing it. Most of their unjust and insubstantial criticism exposes, shamefully, their misunderstanding of the role of their professors in class. They expect the university to be a wearied continuation for schools; they want to be spoonfed and have their shoulders patted for memorising information.

The inability of these students to realise the role of their new teachers (their university professors) reflects the considerable gap in our educational system at its different levels. Such a gap of disastrous consequences demands immediate bridging if further mental and cultural deterioration is to be avoided.

As for those students holding and advocating such impractical and usually misleading beliefs, they are advised to broaden their minds and widen their horizons. They need try to adapt to their new academic environment with the end of enriching their life and academic experience at university.

Lutfi Hussein,
P.O. Box 2446,
Yarmouk University,
Irbid.

Early better than late

To the Editor:

I refer to Dr. Majdoubeh's article "University education and future citizens — aspirations and fears" (Jordan Times, Oct. 10, 1993) and would like to share the following with the readers of the Jordan Times:

The subject of early education and upbringing has always been a primary issue in our society, but obviously no considerable steps have been taken for its improvement. Any Jordanian parent is well-aware of the importance of raising children properly although most fail to practise it in actual terms. Thus we need to concentrate more on methods that arm our children better for their future.

Our children, regrettably, suffer from adults' oppressive policies. A large number of individuals do not realise that they are the basic examples in the building of a child's character and mentality and therefore may affect them badly. Children, especially the more sensitive ones, will be ruined as a result of oppressive adult behaviour. They are not listened to and if they dare protest, they would have a "What a shame! You think you know better than us?" for a response. So, it is not astonishing to see them grow up timorous and not knowing how to behave naturally. If they do not know how to behave themselves, how can we expect to succeed in feeding them with moralities and ideal theories?

Few people are able to open a "free" debate between themselves and their children. There are certain taboos in the parent-child relationship that need to be removed. The first steps should certainly be taken by adults, so as to encourage children to express themselves. As soon as they begin to feel safe about their parents' attitudes towards their actions, communication between them becomes easier.

A child passes through two main phases of "growing up" and generally, the family and the school neglect these two phases. The first period is considered to be mainly between the age of three and five. In these early years, a child opens his eyes to a world of objects around him. The second phase, and most dangerous, is between eleven and fifteen, or the beginning of adolescence. It is a very critical phase that needs extra attention and care. In these years, they open eyes and minds to a deeper reality of life. It is a transitional phase and it is the most decisive in determining the output we can expect of one's mentality in the years to come.

If the family, in cooperation with the school, concentrates on children's upbringing, we should one day be able to boast of having more conscious and mature generations. We should be able to have them concerned with every aspect of society and human life, especially nowadays when we see few students visiting the library for extra knowledge or something out of what is imposed on them by the curriculum.

Professors in universities protest against their students not getting involved. Why not bring them up in the first place in a way that makes it easier for them to get involved? Of course, university or college students are of an age when they themselves should try to reform their personalities. What we want is to make it easier on children, in their future, to make a difference, and not just be another number in the statistics. And childhood is where it begins.

Claudia Rafick Huwari,
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Irbid.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

ment (QAF) projects carried out with Japanese support.

Mr. Makihara arrived here Tuesday on a two-day visit to Jordan.

Mitsubishi Corporation, a Japanese industrial giant, had participated with Jordan's phosphate and potash companies and other firms to build, in Aqaba, a fertilizer-plant with an annual capacity of 300,000 tonnes, to be all exported to Japan.

"In the final analysis, France will give its approval (to a GATT deal) if the European Community accepts the commission's proposals."

Germany, Britain, Denmark and the Netherlands oppose any effort that strengthens the Community's trade defences, but some diplomats have suggested the French could win out if a 116-nation GATT deal was on the line.

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession in the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3217/27	Canadian dollar
	1.7025/35	Deutschemarks
	1.9077/87	Dutch guilders
	1.4663/73	Swiss francs
	35.53/57	Belgian francs
	5.8525/75	French francs
	1671.8/3.3	Italian lire
	107.73/83	Japanese yen
	8.2829/29	Swedish crowns
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Transitional council takes office to end S. Africa's white rule

CAPE TOWN (R) — A multi-racial Transitional Executive Council (TEC) took office in South Africa Tuesday, ending 340 years of exclusive white rule.

Leaders of the anti-apartheid struggle for black liberation were ecstatic as senior officials from 19 white and black groups took their positions in the old white president's council chamber by Table Bay, where the first European settlers landed in 1652.

"Our entrance here means we have disinfected this chamber of old bad odours. This means the people have taken over what is theirs," Cyril Ramaphosa, secretary-general of the African National Congress (ANC) told reporters.

Chief government negotiator Roelf Meyer, whose National Party invented apartheid in 1948 to entrench white power, told the opening session it was an historic day.

"For the first time in the history of South Africa all the peoples of this country are together in a statutory body. The TEC is the final step in the process to bring about full democracy in South Africa," he said.

The council comprises representatives of the reformist government of President F.W. de Klerk and a myriad of other groups which signed a democratic interim constitution last month.

It is charged with overseeing preparations for the April 27 election in which the five-to-one black majority will vote for the first time.

Although the white minority government will remain in office until the election, the TEC will have a veto or decision-making powers over a range of departments, including those dealing with finance, defence, law and order and

foreign affairs. Black hands will be on the reins of power for the first time.

Mr. Ramaphosa and others pointed out real majority rule would not come until the election, but senior cabinet Minister Dawie de Villiers told reporters: "This is the end of minority rule."

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. (0824 GMT) in a chamber once used by the President's Council, a body created to ensure that whites could never be overruled by a parliament expanded in 1984 to include Indians and people of mixed race but no blacks.

Mr. Ramaphosa said in his opening speech the white government must fully accept the days of minority rule had ended and must not be allowed to use the council purely as "a toy telephone" advisory body.

"All of us assembled here must exercise our functions with determination and a great deal of courage," he said.

President de Klerk has said the TEC is an advisory body concerned with levelling the playing field for the election.

He told reporters Monday: "The TEC is not going to take over the government tomorrow."

Neither he nor ANC leader Nelson Mandela attended the ceremony. Mr. de Klerk is due to leave Tuesday to collect the Nobel Peace Prize awarded jointly to him and Mr. Mandela for their efforts.

The ANC and others insist the TEC must have real teeth, including exercising firm authority over actions of white-lead security forces in black townships where almost 13,000 people have been killed in factional fighting during three years of apartheid reform.

The government and the

ANC have long differed on the actual powers to be exercised by the TEC.

Each seeks to reassure its supporters that it had won major concessions for the transition to democracy — the government telling nervous whites it is still in command and the ANC assuring blacks that power is at hand.

In reality, the government already had shed much of its former draconian powers. For months it has had to defer to its black negotiating partners before taking important decisions.

"We have done it. We have achieved the seemingly impossible. Now for the miracle of a completely free and fair election," Communist Party chairman and former guerrilla chief Joe Slovo told the chamber.

Mr. Slovo's first wife Ruth First was assassinated in Mozambique by a parcel bomb from South Africa during the war between black and white forces.

In the north of the country, about 30 armed white night raiders occupied historic Fort Schanskop outside Pretoria in what was described as a symbolic gesture against the TEC and the end to white rule.

Black soldiers surrounded the fort, which is now a military museum.

The TEC meeting was boycotted by the so-called Freedom Alliance of conservative whites and blacks, including the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party of Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

They walked out of democracy negotiations five months ago demanding stronger federalist powers for ethnic regions.

IFP Indian member of parliament Farouk Cassim said the alliance was "keen, even desperate" for a negotiated solution.

"We set out at the beginning for a negotiated settlement and I can speak with authority when I say we want a negotiated settlement now and will take the offensive to achieve these goals," he told Reuters.

Talks between the alliance, the government and the ANC on Monday failed to find a point of breakthrough.

Alliance leaders have threatened civil war if South Africa fails to find an all-inclusive settlement and goes to elections without major political groupings.

Meanwhile, British Overseas Development Minister Baroness Lynda Chalker arrived in South Africa Tuesday for a three-day visit that will include meetings with President de Klerk and other political leaders.

A British embassy official said Baroness Chalker would meet Mr. de Klerk later Tuesday before handing over a cheque for 6.5 million rand (\$1.95 million) to the Rural Foundation for basic health care programmes.

Baroness Chalker will also meet with African National Congress and Inkatha Freedom Party officials during her stay, the spokeswoman said.

In a separate development, African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela arrived Tuesday in Oslo where he will receive the Nobel Peace Prize with Mr. de Klerk Friday.

Mr. Mandela, arriving from Johannesburg, was greeted at Oslo airport by a delegation headed by Francis Sejersted, chairman of the secretive five-member Norwegian Nobel Committee.

Mr. Mandela and Mr. de Klerk won the prize, worth 6.7 million Swedish crowns (\$810,000), for their work to dismantle apartheid and build a non-racial democracy.



Hubble gets 'eyeglasses': The shuttle astronauts tackled the \$3 billion Hubble space telescope's vision problems Tuesday, installing the first of two bulky scientific instruments that contain color-sized mirrors designed to act as eyeglasses for the nearsighted observatory. The upgraded wide field and planetary camera is the size of a baby grand piano, but Story Musgrave and Jeff Hoffman handled it as if it were a feather in the third of at least five scheduled consecutive spacewalks in the open cargo bay of Endeavour. Standing tall in the rear of the bay, the 43.5-foot-long (13-metre) telescope was set to receive the second instrument in a fourth outing that begins late Tuesday and stretches into Wednesday. This overhaul is one of four scheduled over the 15-year life of the telescope. It has included fresh gyroscopes and new power-generating solar arrays, which were installed on the first two spacewalks. With the trouble-free camera swap Tuesday, the crew of six men and a woman had completed everything NASA officials said they would need to declare the most ambitious U.S. mission in two decades a minimal success. The photo shows Astronauts Kathryn Thornton (top) and Tom Akers replacing a solar array on the Hubble space telescope (AFP photo).

Australia digs in heels on row with Malaysia

CANBERRA (R) — Australia insisted Tuesday there was nothing more it could do to settle a row with Malaysia which has raised threats of trade sanctions, saying it was now up to Kuala Lumpur to improve relations.

Foreign Minister Gareth Evans defended Prime Minister Paul Keating's refusal to apologise for calling his Malaysian counterpart Mahathir Mohammad a "recalcitrant" for boycotting the first summit of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum in Seattle last month.

Mr. Evans said Mr. Keating had made every attempt to correct any perception of an insult but would go no further.

"I don't believe it's fair to say that there was irresponsibility or insensitivity on the part of the prime minister in the circumstances of the case," Mr. Evans told parliament in response to an opposition question.

"The subsequent course of events has demonstrated a clear willingness on the part of the prime minister to look forward rather than backwards a very clear willingness... to communicate the proposition that no offence was intended."

Mr. Keating had made it clear that if offence had been taken by Mr. Mahathir "then it is regretted," Mr. Evans said. "We can't state it any more clearly than that."

"We're going to go on stating it and restating it, and we hope that it will be possible for this situation to resolve itself in the not too distant future," he said.

Public opinion also appeared to support Mr. Keating's decision not to apologise to Mr. Mahathir. Editorials, talk-back radio callers and letters to the editor Tuesday generally supported Mr. Keating's position, if not his slip of the tongue.

"If Australia apologises (Keating) loses face and he loses face in the eyes of the world," said a talk-back radio caller.

An editorial in the Age newspaper in Melbourne said: "Mr. Keating has now said enough on this matter — and done enough to placate Dr. Mahathir — and should now opt for silence."

Mr. Malaysia's cabinet is due to meet later this week to consider downgrading relations with Australia.

Malaysia has already banned the broadcast of Australian television programmes and newspapers here said some Australian firms are feeling a chill in business dealings.

"That is matter for very deep regret and we just hope very much that the situation can be contained and ultimately be resolved," Mr. Evans said of the bans.

He said Australian companies may well suffer further. "But that is the nature and hazards of business life, I guess, and one has to contemplate the possibility that things like that will occur when you are doing business with another country."

U.N. accuses Serbs of shelling Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (R) — The United Nations accused Bosnian Serbs Tuesday of shelling out populated areas of Sarajevo as the death toll in latest artillery attack on the besieged city rose to six.

One person died in hospital overnight after shells hit a makeshift black market close to one of the city's main hospitals Monday. A total of 29 people were wounded.

The U.N. military spokesman in Sarajevo, Colonel Bill Aikman, said that while the number of shells to hit the Bosnian capital Monday was, at 93, relatively low, it was noticeable that populated areas rather than front lines were attacked.

"What is significant is where it hit," Col. Aikman told a news briefing. "The main targeting was the populated areas of the city, whereas in the past few weeks and months it has been mainly along the confrontation lines."

Asked to comment on Serb denials that they had shelled Sarajevo Monday, Col. Aikman said: "It boggles the mind."

Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic had already complained of what he called new Serb tactics in a letter to the United Nations Security Council.

"By shelling and mortaring areas where people are known to gather in large numbers, the Serbs do not need to shell heavily — they can get a lot of people with just one shell," he said.

Col. Aikman said the Muslim-led Bosnian army appeared to have made some ground in fighting along the front line that runs through part of central Sarajevo.

"The (Bosnian) army is seeming to move forward some

distance — not a large distance. We are talking about a building or two," he said.

There was also house-to-house fighting in the western Sarajevo suburb of Dobrinja.

In the northwestern Bosnian enclave of Bihac, where separatist Muslim forces made significant advances over the weekend, Muslim forces loyal to the government in Sarajevo — the army's 5th Corps — appeared to have stopped the advance.

"The 5th Corps seems to have reacted strongly to the advance of the Abdic forces," Col. Aikman said.

Muslim-on-Muslim fighting flared in Bihac two months ago when local leader Fikret Abdic, impatient with the Bosnian government's determination to continue the war, declared autonomy from Sarajevo.

In central Bosnia, a key aid route, known by the United Nations as "Route Diamond," was closed because of shelling around the town of Gornji Vakuf, U.N. sources said.

Some shells landed on the aid route itself. Route Diamond is a lifeline for 1.5 million civilians in central Bosnia who depend on humanitarian aid.

British United Nations armoured vehicles in the Gornji Vakuf area came under attack on four occasions Monday, a reminder of the risks faced by peacekeeping forces in central Bosnia, where Muslims and Croats are locked in a bitter war.

U.N. sources said the attackers used weapons that were not powerful enough to disable the British Warrior armoured vehicles, but instead appeared to be part of a deadly game of harassment by one or both of the warring factions.

NATO prepares summit, military deals with East

BRUSSELS (R) — NATO defence ministers met Wednesday to discuss new military cooperation with their former foes and the threat posed by renegade states developing nuclear weapons, in preparation for an alliance summit next month.

Problems for NATO forces caused by shrinking defence budgets and the demands of new missions such as peacekeeping are also on the agenda for the two-day meeting, diplomats said.

But the main focus will be on "partnership for peace," a scheme to be launched at the NATO summit on Jan. 10 which will offer Eastern European nations and former Soviet republics much closer military links with the West.

Eastern European states had hoped to join NATO rapidly but Russia is strongly opposed to any expansion eastwards of the 11-nation alliance, saying such a move would isolate it.

Instead of offering membership or security guarantees to any country, "partnership for peace" provides for joint military exercises, training and even joint missions between NATO and its old enemies in fields such as peacekeeping.

NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner will meet Russian President Boris Yeltsin Thursday and officials said he would try to convince Mr.

Yeltsin that the alliance poses no threat and that Moscow's fears are groundless.

Mr. Yeltsin is in Brussels to sign a cooperation agreement with the European Community and Mr. Woerner will meet him in a chateau away from the NATO meeting at alliance headquarters.

The United States is expected to push hard for NATO allies to forge a common policy and perhaps set up common defences against the threat of renegade states which might acquire nuclear or chemical weapons and the missiles to deliver them.

Problems with North Korea, which the West believes is developing nuclear arms, and with Ukraine, which has refused to give up former Soviet missiles on its soil, have highlighted this new post-cold war threat.

Washington wants the NATO summit next month to commit the alliance to developing a policy of "counter-proliferation," taking a more active role in trying to prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction.

Only 14 of the 16 NATO members attend meetings of defence ministers. France withdrew from the alliance's military structure in 1966, Iceland has no armed forces but sends an observer.

Clinton invites Paul McCartney to White House

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton has invited former Beatle Paul McCartney, said to be his favourite member of the legendary quartet, for a White House concert sometime next year, the singer's publicist said Monday. No date has been set but negotiations have been going on since May, said Joe Dera of the New York public relations firm Dera and Associates. "I started talking to the Clinton campaign before the election, when he (Clinton) was on MTV and he said that the Beatles were his favourite group and Paul was his favourite Beatle," Dera said by telephone. "There's nothing set at this point... But I don't doubt the president would love to have Paul McCartney here. It would be a wonderful concert I'm sure," said Neil Lattimore, spokesman from Hillary Clinton's office which handles social events. One of the biggest obstacles in getting McCartney to perform for the president was a series of scheduling conflicts, Dera said, including McCartney's New World Order world tour which ends next week. "We were trying to fit it into the schedule," Dera added. "Originally we were going to it in May, but the only date they came back with that worked for them was when Paul was already out of the country and it would have cost him a million dollars (in lost concert revenue) just to come back to U.S." If McCartney does appear, it would be his first at the White House.

Mad scientist wins patent for 3-D TV

HOBART, Australia (R) — An Australian scientist declared insane after killing his wife and flushing parts of her body down a toilet has won a patent for a way to see colour television in three dimensions. Rory Thompson, 57, hoped to find a manufacturer for the device he invented in the Hobart's Risdon Prison Hospital cell to which he had been confined since 1984, the Australian Associated Press reported Tuesday. Thompson's publisher said Tuesday an Australian patent had been granted to the former CSIRO (Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation) scientist on Nov. 18 and worldwide patents were pending. Unlike previous 3-D methods, Thompson's does not involve expensive projection technology — merely a translucent polarising filter screen and pair of special glasses — and can be used on television and computer screens. Thompson is awaiting a decision on an appeal against continued imprisonment. He was found not guilty of murder by reason of insanity after he admitted killing his 37-year-old estranged wife in 1983.

\$1.8m paintings stolen from London gallery

LONDON (AFP) — Fifteen paintings worth £1.2 million (\$1.8 million), including works by Dutch old master Pieter Bruegel, have been stolen from a London art dealers, police said Monday. The paintings were taken over the weekend from the fourth floor storeroom of the Noortman Gallery on Old Bond Street in the heart of London's most expensive district, police said. The robbers are believed to have got into the gallery through a window before making a metre-wide hole in the wall of the storeroom where the paintings were stored.

Unique blue teddy bear fetches \$74,250

LONDON (AFP) — A unique blue teddy bear fetched £49,500 (\$74,250) at auction — the second highest price ever — after a private Canadian collector "fell in love with it the moment he saw it," Christie's Auction House said. The bear, made by the German firm Steiff and called Elliot, was produced around 1908 as a sample for the top London store Harrods, but his unique colour did not attract the store's buyer and he was never commercially manufactured. "Coloured bears were not thought to be as cuddly as brown bears, and we think this is why no more were made," Christie's specialist Leyla Maniera said. "Elliot does not seem to have received much love and affection." The 13-inch (33-centimetre) high bear has boot button eyes, is stuffed with fine wood shavings and has a "typical" teddy bear hump. It was sent by an anonymous British vendor.

Amnesty urges Pakistan to end rights abuses

LONDON (Agencies) — Pakistan's new government must live up to its election promises to outlaw a range of human rights abuses, Amnesty International said Tuesday.

"Torture, including rape, in the custody of police, paramilitary and armed forces is endemic in Pakistan, often leading to death," the London-based human rights organisation said in a new report.

"Extrajudicial executions by, or with the approval of the authorities, are rare, and some prisoners have 'disappeared' in custody," it said. "Members of these forces have been allowed to torture and kill with impunity."

Pakistan's Law Minister Iqbal Haider blamed the deaths of inmates on the previous government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

"But our government is

firmly determined to uphold human rights. I don't recall any such incidents since we took over," Mr. Haider said in a telephone interview with the Associated Press.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto formed a new government after winning national elections in October.

Mr. Haider acknowledged that cover-ups among police and prison officials make it difficult to investigate abuses.

"The investigating agencies do not keep anything on their records which might implicate them. This is our main problem. We need cooperation from the families of the victims if we are to solve these cases," Mr. Haider said.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's parliament began an unprecedented debate Tuesday on the country's nuclear program-

me, with the opposition accusing the government of manipulating a sell-out for foreign aid.

"Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto is moving toward a roll-back of the programme to destroy it completely," opposition leader Nawaz Sharif said, opening the debate in the 217-member National Assembly.

The debate, billed by several independent figures including former Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission Chairman Munir Ahmad as a reckless exercise over a highly sensitive issue, led to a heated exchange of accusations.

The government benches said the opposition Pakistan Muslim League (PML) was trying to exploit a vital national issue for political mileage, while the opposition threatened to launch a public agitation campaign if the programme was damaged.

Ms. Bhutto, speaking to reporters outside the house, dismissed Mr. Sharif's allegations, ruling out a roll-back of the nuclear programme and reiterating Pakistan's commitment to regional non-proliferation.

"So long as there is a threat to our security, the country's peaceful nuclear programme will continue," Ms. Bhutto said, in apparent reference to the nuclear capability of neighbouring India.

She left it to Foreign Minister Asf Ali Zardari to wind up the debate later Tuesday.

Ms. Bhutto, who leaves Wednesday for a tour of Iran and Turkey, said Pakistan had been isolated internationally during the two-and-a-half year rule of Mr. Sharif, who resigned in July in the wake of a political crisis.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ivory Coast president dies

ABIDJAN (AFP) — Ivory Coast's President Felix Houphouët-Boigny died Tuesday at 6:35 a.m. (0635 GMT). Prime Minister Alassane Ouattara announced in a broadcast statement. Reliable sources earlier said Mr. Houphouët-Boigny, 88, had died in his home town of Yamoussoukro following a long illness. The late president had a prostate operation in Paris in June. He returned to hospital in the French capital in October and then went to Geneva, before being flown home to Yamoussoukro on Nov. 19. The constitution provides for the speaker of the National Assembly, Henri Konan Bedie, to succeed the head of state and complete his term in office, which runs until September 1995. The legitimacy of this process, introduced by a constitutional reform in 1990, has been challenged by the opposition, however, as well as by some leaders of the ruling Democratic Party (PDCI). The man known as the "father of the nation" died on the very day the West African country celebrated the 33rd anniversary of the freedom he strove for, declaring unilateral independence from France in August 1960.

U.K., China hold Hong Kong talks

LONDON (R) — Britain and China held talks on Hong Kong Tuesday for the first time since the colony's governor decided to press ahead with democratic reforms. The joint liaison group, set up to smooth Hong Kong's return to China in 1997, opened a three-day meeting in London at which discussions will range from air service agreements to arrangements for British military bases to pass to the Chinese army. "The atmosphere is cordial and businesslike," a British official said as five-man delegations from both sides got down to hard talking at a time of tension between their countries. Sino-British relations, bedevilled by months of tough and now-deadlocked constitutional talks in Beijing, took another turn for the worse last Thursday when Hong Kong's governor Chris Patten said he would send a reform bill to the colony's legislature. British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd used uncharacteristically blunt language in parliament Monday when he said Hong Kong faced a stark choice between democracy and corruption. "The underlying question is simple. Will we bequeath to Hong Kong an open and democratic system offering the electorate a genuine choice?" he asked. "Or will we settle for a system based on small electorates open to manipulation and corruption."

N. Korea returns more remains to U.S.

PANMUNJOM, Korea (R) — North Korea Tuesday returned what it said were the remains of 31 American soldiers killed in the Korean War — a gesture of reconciliation amid mounting tensions over the North's nuclear ambitions. U.S. Colonel Forrest Chilton, secretary of the Military Armistice Commis-

sion (MAC) of the United Nations Command (UNC) stationed in South Korea, accepted the remains at a ceremony on the cold war frontier at this inter-Korean hamlet. Exactly a week ago, North Korea returned remains to the UNC, also through Panmunjom, which it said were those of 31 U.S. army and two air force personnel. After Tuesday's handover, Col. Chilton told reporters the UNC side was negotiating the transfer of more remains. U.S. Army Chaplain Richard Pace, delivering a prayer over the remains, said they had "returned to freedom." He prayed that Korea be reunited "so that the suffering of those who died would not have been in vain." North Korean officers opened each coffin to show Col. Chilton the skeleton of the servicemen and other remains, including identity tags and other belongings.

Actor Don Ameche dead at 85

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona (AP) — Don Ameche, versatile leading man of 1930s and '40s films whose comeback in the 1980s climaxed with an Oscar as supporting actor in Cocoon, has died, a funeral home said. He was 85. Ameche died Monday, said Alona Jordan, operator for an answering service for Messenger Mortuary in Scottsdale. She quoted funeral home owner Paul Messenger as saying Ameche died at 6 p.m. Already a radio star, Ameche made a smooth transition to films, beginning with Sins of Man in 1936. During 12 years at 20th Century Fox, he appeared in musicals, comedies and biographical dramas, most notably The Story of Alexander Graham Bell. When his film career faded in 1948, Ameche busied himself on Broadway in Silk Stockings and Can Can and later in touring musicals and dinner theatre. His second film career began in 1983 with Trading Places, starring Eddie Murphy and Dan Aykroyd. Two years later, he appeared in Cocoon, in which he played one of a group of Florida retirees who discover a fountain of youth created by extraterrestrials. Ameche married his childhood sweetheart, Honore Prendergast, in 1932, and they had four sons and two daughters.

African leaders set up 'peace fund'

CAIRO (R) African leaders met in Cairo Tuesday to launch a "peace fund" and a greater role in resolving the many conflicts plaguing their continent. "This meeting gives a special priority to discussing conflicts and severe outstanding problems in Somalia, Angola, Burundi and the current developments in South Africa," Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said in his opening speech to the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) mini-summit. Mr. Mubarak, current head of the OAU, called on African states and international organisations to finance the establishment of a "peace fund" to settle African conflicts. "Allow me to appeal to all brother heads of African states and officials of African organisations to boost this fund and back its resources. I also appeal to the world and international organisations to support this mechanism," Mr. Mubarak said,

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Eddie The Eagle may be back

STOCKHOLM (R) — Eddie "The Eagle" Edwards, Britain's most successful loser at the 1988 Calgary winter games, has not given up hope of ski-jumping again at the 1994 Olympics at Lillehammer, Norway. "I believe I'll participate at the Olympics despite the fact that everyone is against me. I am after all England's best ski jumper," he told the Swedish Falu Kuriren newspaper Tuesday. Edwards, currently in the Swedish ski resort of Falun to take part in a film, went bankrupt last year and was not picked for the British team at the 1992 Albertville games. Edwards performed a 15-metre jump at Falun but decided not to attempt the resort's 70-metre jump after complaining of dizziness. The newspaper said Edwards had meanwhile set his sights on a different exploit — driving a car down ski slopes, and had already contacted Swedish manufacturers Volvo and Saab. "I guarantee that the ski jump will not be damaged," he said.

Wright rescues Arsenal

LONDON (R) — Ian Wright's shooting skills saved a point for Arsenal in a pulsating London derby against Tottenham at Highbury. But it was Tottenham, who have now gone nine league games without a win, who were left wondering how they had not managed to go away with all three points. After Darren Anderton had given them a deserved 25th-minute lead, Ossie Ardiles's men missed three golden chances to put the match out of reach and it was only Wright's sharpness in front of goal that masked another shaky defensive performance by the Gunners. Arsenal goalkeeper David Seaman set up the equaliser with a long kick in the 64th minute. The ball was flicked on and the recalled Anders Limpar chipped the ball into the middle where Wright found a precious yard of space to volley past Thorstvedt for his 18th goal of the season and his 75th in 106 appearances for Arsenal. Arsenal have registered only three wins in their last 10 league games and their challenge to champions and league leaders Manchester United is floundering on a home record which shows just five goals in their last six matches.

Ajax go back to the top

THE HAGUE (AFP) — Ajax went back to the top of the Dutch League here Monday after thrashing Heerenveen 4-1. The away win took them to 28 points, equal with Feyenoord, but Ajax have a huge advantage on goal difference, having scored 44 goals and conceded just eight in 15 league matches. Finn Jari Litmanen opened the scoring in the 20th minute and fellow midfielder Clarence Seedorf made it two on the stroke of half time after Pieter Keur had equalised in the 38th minute. Ajax's win was sealed by second-half goals from international winger Marc Overmars and Ronald De Boer.

China plays Olympic waiting game

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AFP) — Beijing continued to play a waiting game over whether to enter the race to stage the 2004 Olympics here Monday. China's International Olympic Committee (IOC) member Zhenliang He revealed that a final decision could depend on whether another Third World candidate made a bid. He said: "At the moment, we are still thinking about it, but we cannot announce anything until we know the other candidates. He added: "Beijing will act in the interests of the Olympic Movement and that could mean supporting a bid from another Third World country." Beijing lost out to Sydney in the race to stage the 2000 Olympics.

Fiesta turns sour

MONTEVIDEO (AFP) — Three people were wounded by gunfire when Penarol fans celebrated their club's Uruguayan championship, police said Monday. Police detained 37 fans after the party got out of hand and shops were looted. Penarol made sure of the title by drawing 1-1 with Cerro in front of 60,000 fans at their Estadio Centenario while their closest rivals Defensor Sporting lost 2-0 at Danubio to finish two points behind.

Oberer gets Swiss top job

GENEVA, Switzerland (AFP) — Stéphane Oberer was named coach and captain of the Swiss tennis team here by the Swiss Tennis Association. Oberer replaces Frenchman Georges Deniau, who was sacked as coach following an

internal row after the Swiss reached the Davis Cup final last year. Oberer's candidacy was backed by top Swiss trio Marc Rosset — who is already coached by Oberer — Jakob Hlasek and Claudio Mezzadri.

Macedonia get green light to join FIFA

ZURICH (R) — Macedonia, the former Yugoslav republic, are expected to gain provisional membership of FIFA next week after receiving initial clearance by officials of soccer's governing body Monday. FIFA legal executive Michel Zen-Ruffinen said: "Macedonia will be recommended for provisional membership to the executive committee in Las Vegas next week. 'I have just returned from Macedonia. I can confirm our file is complete.' Formal ratification is expected by FIFA's congress in Chicago next June. Mr. Zen-Ruffinen said the team would be known as "Macedonia, the former Republic of Yugoslavia," in line with United Nations rulings. Macedonia are expected to be joined by former Soviet republics Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, all of which were recommended for membership by a FIFA delegation in November.

Canadian gets gold after all

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AFP) — Canadian synchronised swimmer Sylvie Frechette was awarded the Barcelona Olympics gold medal here Monday — over a year late — after organisers admitted she was cheated by a computer error. Frechette was beaten into silver in the solo event by American Kristine Babb-Sprague in the 1992 games but the International Olympic Committee (IOC) reversed the decision after an appeal by the International Swimming Federation (FINA). A judge's slip-up while using the computer marking system led to the mix-up, which was brought to light by Canada's sporting authorities, who persuaded FINA to challenge the result. Babb-Sprague, however, will be allowed to keep her gold medal. The silver will not be awarded.

Italy pole vaulter fails dope test

ROME (R) — Italian pole vaulter Alberto Giachetto was suspended after testing positive for the steroid metandienone, the Italian Athletics Federation (FIDAL) said. FIDAL said in a statement that Giachetto first tested positive for the steroid on Dec. 1 and another test Monday confirmed traces of the substance. Giachetto was suspended pending a hearing of FIDAL's disciplinary commission and faces a four-year ban. Italian 100 metres hurdler Giannina Re also faces a similar ban after failing to turn up for a dope test called at short notice earlier this week.

Maddock quits Manchester City

MANCHESTER, England (AFP) — The battle for the control of Manchester City took a new twist here Tuesday as general manager John Maddock quit after just three months. Maddock resigned just a week after the man who appointed him, ex-Chairman Peter Swales, also stood down. A former journalist, Maddock upset City fans by sacking manager Peter Reid only four weeks into the new campaign, to be replaced by Brian Horton. Swales, who bore the brunt of the supporters' anger for the club's failings, remains on the club board. A campaign has been launched for former England and City favourite Francis Lee, now a successful businessman, to take over the club.

Daughter cools Cox's anger

MIAMI, Florida (AFP) — A daughter's tears soothed the savage beast. Bryan Cox's nine-year-old daughter accomplished something the toughest American football players officials could not. She tamed the temper of the Miami linebacker. "Kids ask my daughter, 'why is your dad always fighting?' Why is he always arguing?" Cox said. "She was almost in tears Sunday talking to her. It's difficult to put that on your kid. I need to keep a cooler head." Cox offered a heckling fan \$10,000 for a fight and threatened an official in the final moments of a 19-14 loss Sunday to the New York Giants. This game after many other incidents this year, including a \$10,000 fine for making obscene gestures to fans in Buffalo. But Cox vowed Monday to calm his angry ways after speaking with his wife and young daughter. "I have been an embarrassment to myself and my family and my team and I understand that a little bit better," Cox said. "Those are the reasons I need to sit back and take a look at this."

Inter coach wary of Norwich

MILAN, Italy (R) — Internazionale coach Osvaldo Bagnoli is not taking victory for granted when his team host Norwich City of England in their UEFA Cup third round, second leg match Wednesday. Even though Inter take a 1-0 lead into the game following Dennis Bergkamp's winner from the penalty spot in the first leg two weeks ago, Bagnoli knows just how dangerous Norwich can be away from home when their counter-attacking game is at its most effective.

Bagnoli conceded Tuesday: "The game is wide open and our advantage doesn't leave me feeling all that confident. I'm glad, however, that we'll have Angelo Orlando and Davide Fontolan back in the team."

But Inter will be without injured midfielders, Dutchman Wim Jonk and Antonio Mancione, as well as striker "Toto" Schillaci.

However, Bagnoli can still field a strong side with Francesco Dell'Anno, Russian Igor Shalimov and Orlando and Fontolan in midfield, supporting the attacking partnership of Uruguayan Ruben Sosa and Bergkamp.

Compared to Inter, who have been playing in Europe for 38 years, Norwich are mere apprentices having made their European debut this season.

But they have already claimed the impressive scalp of Bayern Munich who they knocked out in the last round — clinching the tie with a decisive win away from home in the first leg.

In contrast to their home form, which has been patchy, Norwich have only lost twice away from home in 14 matches this season.

An indication of their success away from home is their scoring record.

— 24 on their travels. But manager Mike Walker has a huge battle on his hands to come away with a win from Inter's impressive San Siro Stadium.

Norwich were outplayed for long periods by Inter in the first leg and their task has been made even harder because three key players — midfielder Ian Crook, sweeper Ian Culverhouse and captain Ian Butterworth — are all suspended.

But John Polston, another key defender, appears to have recovered from an ankle injury and a heavy cold and should play.

JORDAN BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

By Aileen Bannayan

Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — Eight participating teams Wednesday clash in the second round of the first division basketball championship—the premier basketball competition of the country — which will conclude the 1993 season after the Jordan Basketball Federation lately decided to cancel the under-22 tournament.

Al Jazireh, who week secured third place after a hard-fought 54-53 win over Al Jalil, will meet former titleholders Al Orthodoxy at the Sports Palace in Amman.

Despite their 81-67 win over Al Wafiq earlier in the week, Al Jazireh had a hard time overcoming the usual third-placed Al Jalil. However the relief of securing third place behind the kingdom's top-two is sure to give them a big boost towards reentering their top-three ranking and scoring big wins in their upcoming matches. However, they are now in

second place as Al Orthodoxy have a postponed match.

Al Ahli, who have so far scored 127-35 and 100-18 wins over Al Ashrafieh and Al Wafiq, will have no difficulty overcoming current fifth-placed Al Wafiq.

Al Ahli have scored their latest convincing wins through their younger players as the experienced veterans have been given a rest mainly due to injury and exhaustion.

In another match fourth-placed Al Jalil will seek to

score a big win over newcomers Al Ashrafieh who have so far only beaten Al Wafiq and lately lost 67-69 to Al Wafiq.

Al Hussayn, who this week lost 89-71 to Al Orthodoxy and 84-58 to Al Jalil, are expected to easily overcome the other newcomers, Al Wafiq, in their match at Al Hassan Sports City in Irbid.

The championship is due to be completed by Dec. 29 when the Al Ahli and Al Orthodoxy clash for the title in the much-awaited game.

STANDING

Team	P	W	L	SF	SA	Pts
Ahli	9	7	—	895	386	18
Jazireh	9	7	2	728	363	16
Orthodoxy	8	7	1	764	372	15
Jalil	9	5	4	724	376	14
Wafiq	9	4	5	601	660	13
Hussayn	9	2	7	631	714	11
Ashrafieh	9	1	8	431	863	10
Wafiq	7	—	7	299	633	7

Galatasaray face big freeze in Moscow

LONDON (R) — Turkish giants Galatasaray will have to overcome sub-zero temperatures when they tackle Spartak Moscow Wednesday if they are to maintain their European Cup dream.

The Turkish champions who knocked out Manchester United and held Barcelona to a draw in the first match of the Champions League, have already had a taste of the bitter Russian winter.

Their flight from Istanbul was delayed for three hours on Monday because of heavy snow in Moscow, but the Russian champions promise their undersoil heating will ensure the pitch is not snowbound or frozen.

Weather conditions are likely to favour the home side, with Moscow in the grip of a particularly cold winter in which temperatures have regularly hovered around minus 15 Celsius.

Galatasaray are aiming for a point to maintain their hopes of a semifinal berth as one of the top two in Group A, but Spartak, determined to make up for their 4-1 humiliation in Monaco in their opening game, have been on an eight-day training camp in Croatia.

"We hope that defeat will spur them to restore their reputation," Spartak team manager Nikolai Starostin told Reuters. "We can shake off that loss with a good result against Galatasaray and the players know that."

Starostin said trainer Oleg Romanov had a squad of 18 fit players to choose from, but

question marks hung over centre-back Andrei Pyatitsky and playmaker Fyodor Cherenkov, who have just recovered from injury.

Galatasaray's German trainer Rainer Hollmann said: "We must get at least one point if we want to qualify for the final."

Captain Tugay Kerimoglu said: "Our aim is to return with two points. But one point will not be bad for us."

The Turks, who will be without suspended Swiss international striker Kubilay Turkulmaz and injured German defender Falco Goetz, expect about 4,000 supporters, including Turkish workers in Russia.

Sporting Lisbon coach Bobby Robson also has concerns about winter conditions and has given his players special boots for playing on snow and ice to cope with freezing conditions in Austria against Salzburg in Tuesday's UEFA Cup third round tie.

It's fundamental to play with these boots. We would be in a very serious position if we went there with normal ones," the former England manager said.

Monaco, who travel to Barcelona in the other Champions League Group A game, are setting their sights firmly on the European Cup after slipping further out of the battle for the French League.

Defeat Friday left them eight points behind leaders Paris St. Germain and made trainer Arsene Wenger more determined to chase European glory.

"Now that the title is out of reach, the players will give it all they have on the European Front," he said.

"We needed a tough game to get ready to face Barcelona and we had it," said Wenger, whose team lost to a last-minute goal against Toulouse.

"We believe in our chances and our goal is to reach the semifinals."

In the only Group B match Wednesday, bottom pair Werder Bremen and Anderlecht clash in a game neither side can really afford to lose.

Werder, 3-2 losers at FC Porto in their opening Champions League game, have been lifted by last weekend's 1-0 defeat of former German League leaders Eintracht Frankfurt.

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Frankfurt.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
AND TAMMAM HIRSH
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K1086 ♣6 ♢85 ♣J76432
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
3 ♠ Dbl ?
What action do you take?
A.—It's dollars to donuts that the opponents can make a slam in hearts or diamonds, so it is simply a matter of what you can do to deter them from bidding it. A jump to five spades is a red cape that surely will spur them to such heights. The choice lies between pass, in the hope they don't get there under their own steam, and four spades to make them think you have some cards. We prefer the latter.
- Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K7652 ♣98643 ♢72 ♣A984
Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?
A.—When partner opens with a minor suit, we strive to keep the bidding alive when we hold a five-card major. That is not necessary when partner has opened in a major, especially when we are short in that suit. Pass.
- Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠Q95 ♣AK8 ♢74 ♣Q10984
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A.—You have excellent support for partner's first suit, but that doesn't mean that you should drive to game by jumping to three hearts. The ace and king of hearts have already been taken into account for your two-over-one response, so all you can do now is take a preference by bidding two no trump.
- Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AKJ85 ♣AKJ5 ♢07 ♣KJ2
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A.—Probability of slam is high—if a fit can be located. Otherwise, game might be all that's in the cards. The first step should be a bid of three hearts. That will uncover a four-card heart fit or three-card spade support with partner.
- Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠Q75 ♣AK8 ♢A9 ♣Q984
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass ?
What action do you take?
A.—Partner's bid is not an attempt to play in a partscore—it's forcing and North could have quite a good hand for this sequence. In support of spades you could hardly have a better hand—three good trumps, prime cards and a ruffing value. Show that with an advance cue-bid of four diamonds.
- Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠Q94 ♣QJ73 ♢Q854 ♢J92
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What action do you take?
A.—Partner's jump shift is a game force, so you must do something. However, you don't want to encourage partner in any way and a preference to three clubs is much too forward-going. Slam on the brakes by bidding two no trump.

Russia's national soccer coach rejects call to quit

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The coach of Russia's national soccer team accused his predecessor Monday of masterminding a letter demanding his ouster and signed by 14 players.

"Most of the players signed the letter, believing it mainly contained financial demands and were unaware of the fact it also demanded the replacement of the coach," Pavel Sadyrin told the Associated Press.

The letter was handed last week to Shamil Tarpishev, President Boris Yeltsin's adviser on sports issues.

The letter from the players, most of whom were playing for European clubs, said they were dissatisfied with Sadyrin's training methods and wouldn't play under his command. It demanded that he be replaced by Anatoly Byshovets, the national team's former coach who was fired in 1992.

Tarpishev has asked the Russian Football Federation to take measures to settle the conflict and not to let it harm the Russian team's World Cup chances.

"The most important thing is that our team should demonstrate a worthy performance at the World Championship, and it's necessary to create a normal psychological climate for that purpose," Tarpishev said.

Sadyrin, 51, became the national team coach last year

after Byshovets lost the job following Russia's poor performance in the 1992 European Championship.

Sadyrin blamed Byshovets for masterminding the letter.

"This letter is reminiscent of our past, when people were writing letters to the Communist Party's Central Committee and the party leaders were making decisions for federations and sports teams," Sadyrin said.

He said some players who signed the letter called him and had disavowed its contents, saying they didn't know it targeted him.

"It hurts me to feel that the players, who have assured me they would be happy to for the national team, signed such a letter, but I realise they have been just used," Sadyrin said.

Sergei Kiriyakov, who plays for Karlsruhe in Germany, called my office saying he signed a blank sheet of paper unaware of the letter's exact content.

Kiriyakov, who plays for Karlsruhe in Germany, accused Sadyrin of criticising his players unfairly and failing to take responsibility when the team performed poorly.

"In my opinion Sadyrin doesn't think about the game, as such, at all. We spend our training sessions on some sort of nonsense, and planning for the match takes five minutes, at most. What kind of tactics is that?"

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	Harrison Ford — in PATRIOT GAMES		CONCORD '1' Clint Eastwood — in IN THE LINE OF FIRE		MADONNA IN BODY OF EVIDENCE		presents a play entitled: Al Iim Nuron		The political comedy WELCOME ARAB SUMMIT	
	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		CONCORD '2' For Ever Young		Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		A popular political comedy Actors: Abeer Issa, Dacud Jalajel, Hassan Al Shaer, Fuad Shomali In addition to other comedians Every night at 8:15 Tickets are sold all day		Daily 8:30 p.m. The theatre closes Saturday and Sunday English synopsis available	

كلنا من الـ 11

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mideast steering group to meet in Tokyo

TOKYO (AFP) — A panel tasked with coordinating five issues under negotiation in the Middle East peace process will meet in Tokyo on Dec. 15 and 16, the Japanese Foreign Ministry announced Tuesday. The meeting, the fourth of the international steering group, will take place only two days after the Israel-Palestinian autonomy accord is scheduled to be introduced. The group, under the co-chairmanship of Russia and the United States, gathers representatives from the European Community (EC), Canada, Egypt, Israel, Japan, Jordan, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Saudi Arabia and Tunisia.

Right-wing federation formed in Israel

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli right-wing groups formed an association Monday with the initial aim of stopping the government issuing guns to the Palestinian police force due to take over in the Gaza Strip and Jericho once Israeli troops start withdrawing on Dec. 13, a founder said. Hillel Weiss said the association, Tikva, intended to set up 25 centres across Israel to recruit volunteers for a private police force to be called Hashomer (the guardian), to protect some 115,000 Israeli settlers in the occupied territories. The first of them will be set up in Tel Aviv, with the initial aim of finding 50 recruits. Army Reserve General Amatzia Hen will head a publicity drive, Mr. Weiss said.

Second ship since war docks at Iraq

NICOSIA (AP) — A Greek cargo ship loaded with rice docked at an Iraqi port Thursday, the second vessel to do so since the Gulf war, the Iraqi News Agency reported. The news agency reported that the Kafo Priamits docked in Umm Qasr port Tuesday morning and was immediately unloaded. The ship had not violated the U.N. embargo imposed after Iraq's Aug. 2, 1990, invasion of Kuwait, which bans all imports except food and other humanitarian supplies. Western navies enforcing the embargo had intercepted 18,740 ships, boarded 796 and turned away 430 through Nov. 21, according to U.S. Navy records. On Nov. 26, the Egyptian-flagged Tephys unloaded sugar at Umm Qasr after the U.S. Navy allowed it passage through the gulf.

Libyan scientist claims nuclear fusion success

TRIPOLI (AFP) — Libyan scientist Al Hashemi Al Abyad has claimed here that he has discovered a revolutionary technique to generate energy by nuclear fusion which could replace the current nuclear fission method. Mr. Abyad, a university professor working with the Libyan Centre for Nuclear Research, said he had "found a solution to the problem of producing energy by nuclear fusion from hydrogen isotopes." He said his discovery would solve the problem of how to build a reactor fuelled by deuterium, a component of heavy water readily available in seawater. Since 1958, scientists across the world have been working on a method to generate energy by fusing two hydrogen isotopes, deuterium and tritium, but so far experiments have used more energy to achieve the fusion than the fusion generates. The advantage of fusion would be that it would not create the radioactive waste which results from nuclear fission.

7 Iranians killed in heavy snow storm

TEHRAN (R) — Seven people stranded in snowbound mountain roads in northwest Iran have died of cold, a newspaper reported Monday. Hamshahri newspaper quoted an official in Ardabil, 400 kilometres northwest of Tehran, as saying road workers managed to rescue the rest of the passengers of some 200 cars which were stuck in a severe snow blizzard.

Prominent Shi'ite cleric hospitalised

NICOSIA (AP) — Grand Ayatollah Mohammad Reza Golpaygani, one of Shi'ite Islam's key spiritual leaders, was in critical condition at a Tehran hospital Tuesday after suffering a heart failure, media reports said. Ayatollah Golpaygani was rushed to Tehran Monday night from the Shi'ite religious centre in the holy city of Qom, 130 kilometres south of the capital, according to Iran's official news agency (IRNA). Ayatollah Golpaygani is one of a handful of Shi'ite clerics of his generation to have achieved the venerable title of grand ayatollah. IRNA said he was one of the founders of the Qom theological seminaries complex 70 years ago, along with the grand ayatollah sheikh Abdolkarim Haeri Yazdi. The Qom complex is the most prestigious theological seminary for the world's 200 million Shi'ites.

Dalai Lama to visit Israel

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The exiled spiritual Tibetan leader will attend the 40th anniversary celebrations of Israel's society for the protection of nature at the Red Sea resort of Eilat between March 20-24, the organisers said Tuesday. The Dalai Lama will deliver a lecture on "ethics, ideology and environmental organisations" at an international environment conference.

Iranian embassy reopens in London

LONDON (AFP) — Iran reopened its embassy in London Monday — four years after Iranian religious leaders condemned British author Salman Rushdie to death — but with no immediate signs that the two countries would exchange ambassadors, the Foreign Office said. Iran severed diplomatic relations with Britain in 1980 after London refused to denounce Mr. Rushdie's book "The Satanic Verses." Reduced diplomatic relations were restored 19 months later, in September 1990, but remain at charge d'affaires level — one level below ambassadorial representation.

Swiss tighten controls on Kurdish groups

BERN (AP) — Switzerland said Monday it will tighten controls on Kurdish groups suspected of staging spectacular attacks in Europe to highlight their drive for autonomy from Turkey. Swiss Justice Minister Arnold Koller said the government did not ban the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) because this could drive the group underground and hamper surveillance. Germany last month banned more than 30 groups suspected of ties to the PKK.

Pollard clemency opposed by Clinton advisers

NEW YORK (R) — Advisers to President Bill Clinton have recommended that he reject a petition for clemency by convicted U.S. spy Jonathan Pollard, the New York Times reported in its Tuesday edition. Mr. Pollard was convicted of spying for Israel in 1987 and sentenced to life in prison. A U.S. official quoted by the newspaper said Mr. Clinton may decide on the Pollard pardon by the end of the week, but other officials told the newspaper it was unlikely the president would shorten Mr. Pollard's sentence despite lobbying by U.S. supporters and a personal plea by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Self-rule or not, intifada far from over

By Barry Parker
Agence France Presse

GAZA CITY, occupied Gaza Strip — Palestinians and Israelis are hoping Thursday's sixth anniversary of the intifada will be the last, leaving the uprising to burn out and autonomy to rise from the ashes. However, there will be no celebrations, only a total strike throughout the occupied territories to mark the day the revolt was born here at Jabalia refugee camp in December 1987.

The fate of the intifada lies in the dangerous days before the end of the year as Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) seek to implement their autonomy agreement.

"The sixth anniversary will be the last," Samy Abu Samhadana, director of the PLO's Gaza Office, boldly predicted.

"The autonomy agreement is a victory for the intifada. It's not the total victory that we are looking for but it's enough of a beginning towards our aim of establishing a state."

"As a people we have had to struggle to establish our rights and without the intifada there would be no agreement, or at least not for many years."

However, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has not called off the popular revolt.

"The intifada is against the occupation," Mr. Abu Sam-



Masked activists of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, perform martial arts during a demonstration held in Gaza City late Monday (AFP photo)

dana explained. "When there is no more occupation there will be no more intifada. There will be no reason to go on."

However, his optimism is loaded with a blunt warning. "If the occupation does not end we will go on with the intifada."

Going on would mean more death, injury and destruction on both sides.

For Israel, 1993, the so-called year of peace, saw an alarming increase in the number of victims.

Palestinians killed 53 Jews by this week compared with 22 in 1982, which was already the most murderous intifada year for Israel. The total for six years has risen to 186 Israelis. Israeli bullets accounted for 176 Palestinian lives, which pushed a six-year toll compiled by AFP to 1,148.

More than 120 Palestinians fell on the Gaza Strip this year, the Gaza Centre for Rights and Law recorded.

Another 4,756 Palestinians from Gaza were wounded by

live, rubber and plastic-coated bullets by Dec. 1. Most were teenagers hit by live bullets.

Raji Surani, a lawyer and director of the centre, weighs the evidence collated and fears he will still be compiling the terrible statistics of the uprising at next year's seventh anniversary.

"One thing has not changed since the agreement: The systematic degradation of human rights by the Israelis."

"The killings, the injuries, the closures, the curfews, the

interrogations, the house demolitions, the massive military attacks..."

"People were living under the illusion that things would improve, the illusion has now vanished."

That happened at the end of November as the army stepped up a hunt for wanted Palestinians, arresting and killing those who had obeyed Mr. Arafat's orders to halt armed operations.

On the ground in Gaza at least the PLO sent activists back out on the streets amid scenes of widespread unrest reminiscent of the early days of the uprising.

The West Bank has remained largely quiet while in Gaza dozens were wounded and several killed before the army and the PLO made an unprecedented deal. Troops pulled back and the confrontations died down.

However, Haidar Abdul Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the bilateral Middle East peace talks, warned: "The intifada is far from dead. It can erupt at any time. The reasons why the intifada started still exist and it will go on for as long as there is a reason for it."

For Mr. Surani, "Gaza will be the test case."

The intifada first flared, has burned most fiercely and will no doubt be extinguished or rekindled again in the Gaza Strip.

U.N. to increase spending in occupied lands by 55%

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The United Nations plans to increase its allocations for the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip by 55 per cent to \$388 million during 1994 as immediate support for Palestinian autonomy, according to a U.N. document.

The document, entitled "Supporting the Transition: An Immediate Response of the U.N. to the Interim Period in the West Bank and Gaza Strip," envisages allocations of \$250 million to support ongoing welfare and services projects for the West Bank and an additional \$138 million for infrastructure development and expanded services.

"Supporting the peace process will require a rapid improvement of the health and education services provided to Palestinians as well as a major initiative to create employment raise the average level of family incomes," said the 17-page document, made available to the Jordan Times by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

According to ESCWA officials, the programme, funds for which will come from the U.N. budget, was drawn up upon the recommendations and agencies now operating in the occupied territories as well as projections drawn up by ESCWA based on research and field studies.

The allocations mean increased services of the three main U.N. organisations present in the occupied territories — the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) — under a coordinator appointed by the U.N. General Secretariat.

Other U.N. agencies, such as the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP), the World Health Organisation (WHO), Habitat, the U.N. Environment Programme, the International Labour Organisation, and the United Nations Educational,

Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), will coordinate their programmes closely with the three agencies.

UNDP programmes focus on setting up and improvement of infrastructure, raising local administrative skills and strengthening the economic base of the two million Palestinians living in the occupied territories.

UNICEF projects cover community-level structures, with particular focus on "disadvantaged groups in areas such primary health care, basic education, physiotherapy and psychological trauma."

UNRWA is the main agency which offers health, education and social services to Palestinian refugees living in the occupied territories as well as Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.

The projects envisaged under the overall U.N. programme for the West Bank and Gaza and implemented by the various agencies of the world body include upgrading of infrastructure, water networks, environmental sanitation, loans for income-generating ventures, transport and communications, educational improvements, schools, health centres, public management advisory services, rehabilitation, child development centres, women's programmes, youth activities, and improving agriculture and industry.

Present plans call for additional allocations of \$53 million for the Gaza Strip and \$52 million for the West Bank in distinct separate projects and \$33 million for projects common for both territories.

According to the U.N., the world body's pre-autonomy accord budget (\$250 million) for the occupied territories accounted for about one third of all public expenditure in the West Bank and half in the Gaza Strip.

An overview of the projected allocation showed that: — Economic and physical infrastructure: \$47.6 million for ongoing projects and \$56.44 million for new activities; — Education: \$72 million

for ongoing projects and \$40.85 million for new activities;

— Health: \$57.4 million for ongoing projects and \$6.2 million for new activities;

— Public management and training: \$12.4 million for ongoing projects and \$6.15 million for new activities;

— Social services: \$38.4 million for ongoing projects and \$10 million for new programmes;

— Agriculture and industry: \$3.2 million for ongoing projects and \$15.6 million for new activities;

Emergency activities as part of ongoing projects are allocated \$17 million and now new allocations have been made in this respect.

In general, the U.N. programme fall in line with the over-arching international expert opinion that the success of the autonomy agreement, and, by extension, the entire Middle East peace process hinges largely on the use of funds to improve the living standards of the people under occupation.

"Since the signing of the declaration of principles by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on Sept. 13, 1993, all parties have emphasised that during the first year of the interim period it will be vital that Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have a sense of a new opportunity," said the U.N. document.

An essential factor in this will be whether Palestinians see a demonstrable and rapid improvement in the quality of their lives."

The document conceded that "achieving this will be a formidable task (and) funds must be rapidly mobilised and disbursed in a productive manner within a very short period of time."

It sets as one of its goals the direct and indirect creation of 150,000 or more job opportunities through direct employment in U.N. activities and stimulating local economic activity through local procurement and increased consumer demands in 1994.

Self-rule talks remain stalled

(Continued from page 1)

postponing the Dec. 13 deadline for Israeli troops to withdraw from Gaza Strip and Jericho despite difficulties in negotiations on the plan.

"For me it is a sacred date" because it had been agreed that the withdrawal is to start on the 13th of this month," Mr. Arafat told reporters on his first-ever official visit to Germany.

"I hope it will be an accurate and honest implementation... (otherwise) it would reflect negatively on the credibility of the peace process."

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said he would meet Mr. Arafat in Spain on Thursday.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) said Monday the two men would jointly address a news conference in Granada, Spain, during a UNESCO-organised meeting on Middle East peace.

Mr. Peres, who secretly

negotiated the peace deal with the PLO, confirmed the meeting with Mr. Arafat to Israel Radio on Tuesday but would not elaborate on what he and Mr. Arafat would discuss.

Mr. Peres asked if he and Mr. Arafat would focus on the deadline, told the radio: "No, I don't intend to conduct negotiations."

"It is a meeting set in another connection altogether and I don't want to exploit it for any sort of mini-negotiation."

Asked what then they would discuss, Mr. Peres said: "Outside of negotiations there's nothing to talk about? We'll talk about the future. How we see things but not enter into the details of negotiations."

During the Granada symposium from Dec. 8-10, Israeli and Palestinian intellectuals will seek to establish a "transition from a culture of war to a culture of peace," UNESCO said.

In occupied Jerusalem, U.S.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher said that because of the latest violence in the West Bank it was a time for "redoubling our efforts to seek peace and security for all the people of Israel."

Mr. Christopher and Prime Minister Rabin met for about an hour and then hinted broadly that before he returns to Washington he expects to announce plans to resume bilateral negotiations between Israel and the Arab parties to the peace process.

Mr. Christopher said he was optimistic about setting in motion "once again mechanisms that can work" towards peace in the region.

The secretary of state also gave Mr. Rabin a letter from President Bill Clinton that repeated assurances Mr. Clinton gave the prime minister during his mid-November visit to Washington.

Those included a promise to provide Israel with 50 F16A fighter planes over the next two years.

Beedh says he is still committed to unity

DUBAI (Agencies) — Yemeni Vice President Ali Salem Al Beedh, locked in a political battle with the country's president that threatens to split Yemen again, says his party is committed to unity.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) newspaper Al Khaleej on Tuesday quoted Mr. Beedh as saying his Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) has not decided on an alternative to the unified Yemen.

"The party works on the basis of preventing separatism but at the same time it rejects annexation," Mr. Beedh said. "When we went to Sana'a (after the merger in 1990) we fell into the grip of the Yemen Arab Republic," he said.

Mr. Beedh was ruler of South Yemen when it merged with the North, led then by Ali Abdullah Saleh who is now the unified country's president. Their political standoff threatens to pull the country apart again.

The two leaders have been trying to iron out differences since July, when Mr. Beedh retired to the southern YSP stronghold in Aden, refusing to attend his duties and boycotting his own swearing-in in the capital Sana'a.

"I consider the so-called self-imposed exile is an attempt to keep away from direct confrontation," the newspaper quoted Mr. Beedh

as saying.

"Yemen doesn't have a Mahdi or Aided," he said, referring to the warlords of Somalia's feuding factions.

A southern YSP member was quoted last week as saying that his party was ready for a federation. Northern members of Mr. Saleh's General People's Congress (GPC) say this is unacceptable.

In his Al Khaleej interview, Mr. Beedh also proposed that both he and President Saleh resign to end the political crisis.

"Only one move is left for us, which is that I and Saleh quit instead of fighting and quarrelling," he told Al Khaleej.

"This is my last proposal and I am proposing it seriously. We have to quit and not allow us to reach a deadlock and destroy the nation," the vice president warned.

He has issued a list of demands to resolve the crisis, including decentralising the government, measures to stabilise Yemen and withdrawal of army units from main cities.

Mr. Saleh said he accepted the demands.

But Mr. Beedh, in the first part of the interview that was published on Tuesday, was sceptical. "He agreed in a way which does not make us confident that the agreement is true," he said.

Israel expects Syria talks

(Continued from page 1)

Syria was also expected to grant exist permits by the end of this year to all Syrian Jews who want to leave — probably about 800 people out of a total Jewish population of 1,200.

State Department Spokesman McCurry confirmed that Washington had cleared the way for Syria, which is subject to U.S. sanctions as an alleged sponsor of world "terrorism," to receive three ageing Boeing

727 passenger jets donated by Kuwait.

Without lifting the sanctions, Washington permitted the transfer of the 20-year-old U.S.-built planes because "the United States felt... the jets could not significantly enhance Syria's military or terrorism potential," Mr. McCurry said.

The planes, to help Syria's tourist industry, will replace older aircraft used by Syrian Arab Airlines, he said.

Moves under way for summit

(Continued from page 1)

settlers while he does not seem to be able to do much about violence against Palestinians.

The PLO leader was also expected to meet with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in Granada, where the two will be attending a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) gathering for Israeli and Palestinian intellectuals.

"A meeting between Mr. Arafat and Mr. Peres will help but an Israeli-Palestinian summit is crucial to salvage the (peace) process," the official said.

The Israelis have suggested a two to three weeks delay citing Palestinian unpreparedness and the vagueness of provisions of the accord. The Palestinian officials said that the delay could be inevitable if Israel insisted. "It takes the two sides' approval to implement the accord," the Tunis based official noted.

Mr. Arafat has insisted on the Dec. 13 deadline partly because he cannot afford to accept a postponement and

partly to pressure Israel to address some of the disputed points.

Officials said that control over the crossing points remains a key issue.

Egypt has said that it supported Palestinian control over crossing points between Egypt and Gaza while there were Israeli statements indicating readiness for joint control over bridges between the West Bank and Jordan.

Mr. Christopher will meet Mr. Arafat again in Tunis on Friday but Palestinian officials have strong doubts that the U.S. will exert any meaningful pressure on Israel.

The PLO expects Israel to take some steps on Dec. 13 such as a beginning of redeployment of Israeli forces in Gaza to prove its commitment to the accord.

"Such a step will not be enough. After all there are fundamental differences over the issue of withdrawal from Gaza," said the PLO official.

While Israel insists on redeployment of troops in Gaza the PLO wants a total Israeli withdrawal.



Clinton suffering from sore back

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton has had to stop jogging temporarily while he recovers from a pulled back muscle that has been causing him some pain, he said. Mr. Clinton, an avid jogger who runs four or five times a week, has been off the streets since Wednesday, when he pulled a muscle. "I just have to wait a while to run," Mr. Clinton told reporters during a stroll across Pennsylvania Avenue to the White House following a news conference at Blair House with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez. "I'm fine. Actually, I'm feeling better than I thought I would right now," the president added. But later during an Oval Office session with senior citizens, Mr. Clinton sat with a pillow supporting his lower back. White House spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers said the president had not seen a doctor and was taking non-prescription pain relievers to reduce the soreness.

Church denies blocking Charles as king

LONDON (R) — The Archbishop of Canterbury George Carey Tuesday dismissed as untrue a newspaper report which suggested he was trying to stop Prince Charles becoming king because of an alleged adulterous affair. Britain's top-selling Sun tabloid claimed in a front-page report that the Church of England was pressing Prince Charles to renounce his succession to the throne in favour of his son Prince William. But a spokeswoman for Arch. Carey said: "Any suggestion that the archbishop was seeking to influence the succession to the throne is pure fabrication." The Sun, one of Prince Charles' fiercest critics, said Arch. Carey believed the 45-year-old prince had made himself unfit to be king by allegedly having a long-term affair with a married woman, Camilla Parker Bowles. As king, Prince Charles would become head of the Church of England and defender of the Anglican faith, which preaches that marriage vows are sacred. "Senior clergy feel it might be appropriate for Charles to renounce his inheritance early and devote his life to preparing Prince William, 11, for the task," the Sun said. Princess Diana's surprise announcement last week that she was retreating from public life has intensified talk of a divorce from Prince Charles. The couple separated a year ago.

Diana christens plane

LONDON (AP) — Princess Diana's wish to be left alone hasn't been granted by the fairy godfathers of Fleet Street, not yet anyway. As the 32-year-old princess ducked freezing champagne Monday at the christening of a Jumbo Jet, British papers bulged with "exclusive" stories and creative scenarios on the future of the royal family without Princess Diana, the tabloids' favourite weapon in their circulation wars. On Friday, Princess Diana announced that she was edging out of the limelight, forsaking much of her charity work and ceremonies — like aircraft christenings — to spend more time with her sons, Princes William, 11, and Harry, 9, who attend boarding school outside London.

Actress wins \$2m libel award from Zsa Zsa

LOS ANGELES (R) — A jury awarded actress Elke Sommer \$2 million in compensatory damages in a libel suit against Zsa Zsa Gabor and her husband, who were accused of saying that Sommer was broke, balding and frequented sleazy bars. Richard Russell, Sommer's attorney, said his client declined to comment until the jury had finished its work. The panel was scheduled to meet Tuesday to decide punitive damages. Ms. Sommer, 53, claimed she suffered sleepless nights, headaches and nausea after remarks reportedly made by Ms. Gabor and her husband, Frederick Von Anhalt, were published in a German magazine in 1991. Throughout the Santa Monica suit, Ms. Gabor denied saying the statements. Her husband, Von Anhalt, admitted making some of the statements. Ms. Gabor is liable for \$800,000 of the award. Von Anhalt's share is \$1.2 million.

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